

**The Ballad Of Rivka And Mohammed**  
**Leon Rosselson**

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Capo 5

A beautiful song about the occupation of Palestine from Jewish British songwriter Leon Rosselson

The song is originally fingerpicked. I don't know how he plays it exactly, but this pattern works well:

<b>Am</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>C/E</b>	<b>G</b>
e -----2-----2	e -----0-----0	e -----0-----0	
e -----3-----3			
B ----1-----1----	B ----0-----0----	B ----1-----1----	
B ----2-----2----			
G -----2-----2--	G -----1-----1--	G -----0-----0--	
G -----0-----0--			
D -----0-----	D -----2-----	D -----	
D -----0-----			
A --0-----	A --2-----	A --3-----	
A -----			
E -----	E -----	E -----3-----	
E --3-----			

[Verse]

**Am**

I was watching the news from Gaza

**E**

And I fell asleep on my chair

**C/E**

And when I awoke from my slumber

**G**

A young girl was standing there.

[Verse]

**Am**

She said, My name is Rivka

**E**

They killed me because Iâ€™m a Jew

**C/E**

I died in the ghetto of Vilna

**G**

In nineteen forty two.

[Verse]

**Am**

The ghetto was like a prison

**E**

They wouldn't allow us to leave

**C/E**

Some said they were going to kill us all

**G**

We didn't know what to believe.

[Verse]

**Am**

That day I wore my new red dress

**E**

My bubbe had made for me

**C/E**

And in that crowded ghetto

**G**

It made me feel proud and free.

[Verse]

**Am**

I looked up at the soldier

**E**

I looked him in the eye

**C/E**

I forgot to bow my head down

**G**

And so I had to die.

[Verse]

**Am**

He smashed my head with his rifle

**E**

Because I was too bold

**C/E**

I was killed in the Vilna ghetto

**G**

When I was seven years old.

[Verse]

**Am**

And then out of the darkness

**E**

A young boy's gaze met mine

**C/E**

He said, My name is Mohammed

**G**

My country is Palestine.

[Verse]

**Am**

I've lived all my life in Gaza

**E**

And the only time I feel free

**C/E**

Is when I go down to the harbour

**G**

And feel the wind from the sea.

[Verse]

**Am**

That day I went with my cousins

**E**

We ran down to the beach to play

**C/E**

Then the soldier fired a shell at me

**G**

And blew my life away.

[Verse]

**Am**

They want to crush our spirits

**E**

They want us to be afraid

**C/E**

Locked up in the prison of Gaza

**G**

The prison that they have made.

[Verse]

**Am**

To them our lives donâ€™t matter

**E**

They force us to live in a cage

**C/E**

I was killed on the beach in Gaza

**G**

At eleven years of age.

[Verse]

**Am**

They donâ€™t think that we deserve freedom

**E**

Or belong to the human race.

**C/E**

Mohammed, my brother, said Rivka,

**G**

This world is a cold, cold place.

[Verse]

**Am**

Mohammed, my friend, my brother,

**E**

Let us leave this world of war.

**C/E**

Then each took the hand of the other

**G**

And then they were seen no more.

[Verse]

**Am**

But I saw spokesmen and politicians

**E**

Lining up to speechify

**C/E**

And every word was a hypocrite

**G**

And every word was a lie.

[Verse]

**Am**

I saw children still being slaughtered

**E**

The monster must have its fill

**C/E**

While the people with power sat on their hands

**G**

And supplied the weapons that kill.

[Verse]

**Am**

I weep for the people of Gaza

**E**

And they are weeping still

**C/E**

And I curse the ones who did nothing

**G**

And enable the monster to kill.