

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:

Am	E	C/E	G
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.