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Eurovision boycott event Falastinvision names Nour Badra from Sweden as winner

Palestinian pop star Bashar Murad put on a heartfelt performance as a guest star, with thousands of people all over the world participating in Falastinvision

Malmö – In protest of Eurovision’s decision to keep Israel included in the song contest, activists in Sweden staged a rival “genocide-free” song contest called Falastinvision. The rival event drew thousands of viewers away from Eurovision, with hundreds of people attending the live show and thousands participating in the overall event.

The alternative song contest featured 15 finalists listed below, with Nour Badra from Sweden taking the final award for his song F.T.R.T.T.S.

On the song, Badra said: “This song was made to inform the ignorant and to motivate those knowing of the history of Palestine. It’s a tribute and a protest in the name of my country against the racist, genocidal ethno-state Israel.”

He continued: “Spreading awareness on this topic has always been difficult and expressing my solidarity through music has been a coping method for me. FalastinVision has now given me a new platform to spread my music and message and for that I am so grateful.”

With only weeks to plan Falastinvision and working on a shoestring budget, the organisers streamed the event online to a global audience, incorporating pre-recorded entries with live performances.

Each contestant’s song was previewed on a large screen, as a dance party unfolded in the live crowd. Voting was conducted between the live audience, the online audience, as well as the esteemed jury. Online voters joined in from all over the world, from Europe to Chile, United States, South Africa, to Australia.

The event kicked off with an introduction from the exuberant host Andreas Magnusson, a Swedish climate activist with Fridays for Future. Andreas spoke about how music has been part of Palestinian resistance since the beginning of its plight.

After introducing the event, a rap act from Gaza called Darg Team performed live. The rappers did a set of 6 songs in Arabic, including their hit songs “We Don’t Care” and “Nakba”. They finished their act with a song called “Gaza”, where they asked the venue to dim the lights and for the audience to light up the stage with their mobile flashlights, as a symbolic gesture to stand with Gaza.

Another guest live performance was by a father-daughter act – Nellie Shabani and Hussein Eriksson. Their song Bomberna Faller is their first together, and centers the bombing and destruction that Palestinians face.

The songs from the contestants were all focused on Palestine. The full list of the artists and their bios can be found [here](#).

During the intermission, Palestinian pop singer Bashar Murad stunned the audience with a 40 minute set where he opened with a famous traditional Arabic song called “Mawtani” which translates to “my homeland.” He performed several of his songs, including his hit song “Wild West” which caused a major eruption from the crowd as they sang along.

The jury consisted of Swedish Palestinian activist and entrepreneur Mohamad Kiswani, and musician and poet Huseein Eriksson.

Eriksson spoke about how difficult it has been for him to talk about Palestine since losing his parents in the 80s. He said he found his voice in recent months after witnessing the genocide unfolding in Gaza.

Eriksson said: “My parents were tortured and murdered, and that’s why I was forced to flee to this beautiful country. Sometimes I worry this country is going a bit too far to the right, and when I saw what’s happening in Gaza, I realized this is the time to speak out. This is the start of me expressing what I’ve been through, and to show that I understand what people are going through.”

On being a jurist, Kiswani said: “I’m not doing this to ‘show solidarity’ - I’m participating in Falastinvision as a way to campaign for freedom and justice for my people.”

Regarding the songs, Kiswani said: “I have heard them all and it’s very hard to pick winners and to judge. I like all of the contributions, they’re all really good. Hopefully you’ll like them as much as I have”

When a tech glitch happened, host Magnusson recovered by reiterating that this is a grassroots event with “basically no funding”, and shared how challenging it has been to put on an event like this without many resources, to which the crowd erupted in applause and cheers.

Before the winner was announced, Bashar Murad proclaimed to the crowd: “Events like Falastinevision are so important, especially during this time when Palestinians are being dehumanized and not allowed to be on the world stage.”



Bashar Murad performing at Falastinvision. Photo by Deborah Lewis for Ekō

[Photos of the event can be found here.](#)