

INTERMEDIATE

ACROSS BORDERS



Ahmad Kaabour

TRANSLATION

They Called Me 'Refugee'
Ahmad Kaabour

East to West moves the sun,
Warming us amidst our suffering
I know nothing of the sun
But the sun of songs
I know nothing of the sun of Palestine
Or the sunrise in Jaffa
Waiting, I paint an image of the sun
I tap her shoulder to
Wake her up, and call her my sunshine

Refugee, they called me. Refugee.
In and out of shelters
On the map, my country vanished
Leaving my own name

Oh Lord! How beautiful is Ramallah!
And al-Bireh! And Umm al-Fahm!
God bless my people
In Haifa and Bethlehem

Those who sang before me and
Those who sang after me
They all lived just like me
They lived for the right of return
I dream of the right to return to my land
To lie my body on the farm
I dream of the right to return to my land
I dream of flying kites
What a blessing it would be to have a room
of my own
With a window looking out on birds