



## Friends of the Holy Land - Press Release

Monday December 4th, 2023

### **When wailing sirens cease a voice cries out from Bethlehem — Hear Angels Cry**

Bethlehem, - In a departure from the traditional festive decorations and Christmas tree lighting, In the Bethlehem Municipality has chosen to cancel Christmas festivities due to thousands killed and in a prayer for peace. Amidst the rubble and ruins, a poignant voice rises to declare that the light of hope will persist in the small West Bank town where the Christmas story unfolded.

Youstina Safar, a resident of Bethlehem and a student at Bethlehem University, has collaborated with the London-based band Ooberfuse to deliver a powerful message through their Christmas song, "Hear Angels Cry." The song resonates with the belief that hope for a better future, born in the hearts of humanity, remains resilient in the face of aggression.

Watch on Youtube now: <https://bit.ly/418x6lF>

Stream on Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/46JOQVo>

Buy on Amazon: <https://amzn.to/3GuduPo>

Stream on Apple Music: <https://apple.co/46lk9jk>

*Youstina Safar shares, "In the midst of despair, our song 'Hear Angels Cry' stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of hope in Bethlehem. While the traditional Christmas displays may dim this year in remembrance of lives lost in Gaza, our voices unite to affirm that hope will never succumb to darkness."*

*Cherrie Anderson, a member of Ooberfuse, remarks, "As we embarked on this music project in June, we never anticipated the cancellation of Christmas displays in Bethlehem. The dimming lights in Manger Square honour those who tragically lost their lives in the Holy Land. 'Hear Angels Cry' embodies Jesus' message of love, prevailing even in the face of hopelessness. All proceeds from the song will directly benefit those suffering in Gaza, particularly the children reconstructing the fragments of their lives."*

As a partner in this project, John Handal, the Music Producer from Bethlehem and the owner of RJ Music company has played a crucial role in bringing this collaboration to life. His commitment to the project reflects a shared vision of using music as a beacon of hope and healing in the region. John Handal expresses, *"It's an honour to be part of a project that*

*transcends borders and brings together artists from Bethlehem and London. 'Hear Angels Cry' is a testament to the enduring power of music to convey messages of peace and resilience. Through our collaboration, we aim to shine a light on the indomitable spirit of Bethlehem and support those affected by the conflicts in the Holy Land."*

"Hear Angels Cry" is not just a song but a heartfelt plea for unity, compassion, and the enduring power of hope, even in the most challenging circumstances. This Christmas, the world is invited to join in this message of solidarity and support for those affected by the ongoing struggles in the Holy Land.

Proceeds from the song will go to Friends of the Holy Land, a UK charity which is also registered in Palestine. Through its office in Bethlehem, it is well-placed to get urgent, personalized aid to the families most in need in Gaza and the West Bank and will make sure the most in need are helped quickly by the proceeds from the song. The message of Christ has been a light, both spiritually and practically through the work of so many Christian institutions, in the region for thousands of years. These communities and institutions follow Jesus where he walked and love their neighbours by providing hospitals, quality schools, universities and social care in the Palestinian territories. We can't let that light go out in our generation. You can make a further difference by donating separately to ["Hear Angels Cry"](#).

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**Notes for Editors:**  
**Song Cover attached.**

**Youstina Safar** is a singer resident of Bethlehem and a student at Bethlehem University.

**RJ Music** is a leading music production company in Bethlehem.

<https://www.facebook.com/RJMusicForArtisticProductions>

**Ooberfuse** are a songwriting duo composed of Hal St John and Cherrie Anderson. An influential UK music critic says: "Ethereal electronic pop with the complex beauty that Ooberfuse has will endure." Well-crafted songs delivered through powerful, emotional and heartfelt vocals combined with east-meets-west electronic music are Ooberfuse's trademarks.

<https://www.oberfuse.com>

**For more details, please contact our Executive Director, Brendan Metcalfe on mob: 07538 792400 or Office Manager Jen Hill on 01926 512980.**



**Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) patrons include the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Birmingham Bernard Longley and Dr Rowan Williams.**

**FHL is small ecumenical Christian Charity (registered charity in England and Wales (1202568) working from an office in Kenilworth, but with groups and supporters across England, Wales and Scotland. FHL have been operating for fourteen years founded by a number of returning Pilgrims felt called to do something to improve the lives of Christians living in the Land that is at the root of their faith.**