

# UC Berkeley

## nineteen sixty nine: an ethnic studies journal

### Title

Poem for Huda Ghalia

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9qf494v1>

### Journal

nineteen sixty nine: an ethnic studies journal, 2(1)

### Author

Omar, Dina

### Publication Date

2013

### Copyright Information

Copyright 2013 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Peer reviewed

# Poem for Huda Ghalia

---

Dina Omar

*12 year-old who found her whole family dead (July 2007)*

five bodies sunbathe  
on the Gaza coast  
dusty they lay out on the  
beach like archeological ruins  
s a n d  
drips out  
ears  
sticks to lips  
suffocates  
remains  
left for

Huda  
12 year old  
daughter,  
sister,  
niece  
the girl

grabs  
fistfuls of sand  
avalanches  
into her mouth  
hands raised pours  
the same

sand  
stuck in the  
open flesh  
blood  
dust  
clumps  
desiccate  
blood  
inside  
gaping  
abrasions  
of her father  
mother  
brothers  
sister  
uncle  
a puddle of  
dehydrated  
blood  
scraps of skin

in her mouth  
sand  
clumps  
with saliva

gasping

gaping

no screams come out

she keeps

Digging

to hide from missiles

Digging

into silence

Digging

underneath

a black dishdesha

black hijab

black gloves

Digging

Digging

a hole large enough

to bury

herself

alive

beneath

s a n d