

Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib

Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib (Arabic: أحمد فؤاد الخطيب; born April 25, 1990)^{[1][2]} is a Palestinian American humanitarian activist and blogger. He is the founder and executive director of Project Unified Assistance, a nonprofit organization working towards the establishment of a humanitarian airport in the Gaza Strip, to be run and operated by the United Nations.

Early life and education

Alkhatib's family is originally from the Gaza Strip. His grandparents had lived in Hamama and Ramla, but left in 1948 during the 1948 Arab–Israeli War.^[3]

Alkhatib was born in Saudi Arabia, where his father worked as a United Nations physician.^{[4][5]} He and his family returned to Gaza in 2000,^[4] and his father began working at the Jabalia refugee camp.^{[5][6]} Alkhatib's family was devoutly Muslim.^[7] As a child, Alkhatib hoped to become a politician or diplomat.^[1] At age 11, Alkhatib was caught in an Israeli airstrike, which killed three of his friends and left him with permanent hearing loss in his left ear.^{[1][3][6]}

Alkhatib left Gaza in 2005, at the age of 15,^[8] for a one-year-long U.S. Department of State-sponsored cultural exchange program. He spent the year in Pacifica, California, where he learned meditation from his host mother, a Buddhist and retired social worker. He also attended sessions with Living Room Dialogue, a Jewish-Palestinian group based in San Mateo, marking the first time he had spoken to Jews or Israelis.^[1]

Upon completing the program, Alkhatib attempted to return to Gaza via Egypt but was unable to do so. The abduction of an Israeli soldier had resulted in the closure of the Rafah border between Gaza and Egypt. Alkhatib remained in Egypt for months without being able to enter Gaza.^[9] He applied for and received political asylum in the U.S.,^[1] where he finished high school at San Francisco Waldorf High School and went on to City College and the University of San Francisco,^[10] where he studied marketing and became interested in social entrepreneurship.^[11] In 2023, he earned a master's degree in intelligence studies at American Military University.^[10]

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Alkhatib on March 4, 2026

Born	April 25, 1990 Saudi Arabia
Citizenship	American
Occupations	Executive Director, <u>Project Unified Assistance</u>

Career

Alkhatib has published work in *The Atlantic*,^[12] *The Forward*,^[13] *Haaretz*,^[14] *Newsweek*,^[15] *The Times of Israel*,^[16] *The Jewish Chronicle*,^[17] *The Wall Street Journal*,^[18] and The Washington Institute for Near East Policy.^[19] Alkhatib is a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council,^[20] and also leads the Realign For Palestine project, which pushes for nonviolence and the two-state solution for peace between Israel and Palestine.^[21]

In June 2025, he appeared on a *Surrounded* episode by Jubilee Media.^[22]

Project Unified Assistance

Alkhatib has had a lifelong interest in aviation and desire to work in the field, especially during the time when Gaza's international airport was operational. After the destruction of the Gaza airport by Israeli air strikes during the Second Intifada, he was convinced of the need "to play a role in restoring aviation services to the people of Gaza".^[4]

Personal life

Alkhatib became a U.S. citizen in 2014, at the age of 24.^{[1][9]}

2017 Ben Gurion Airport incident

In 2017, while attempting to visit his sister and parents in Israel, Alkhatib was deported from Ben Gurion Airport. Although he is a naturalized U.S. citizen and had not traveled to Palestinian territories for over a decade, Israeli authorities claimed that he was a Palestinian with "active citizenship." Later, Alkhatib published details about what took place during the deportation in an op-ed in *The Jerusalem Post*.^[8]

Israel-Gaza war (2023-25)

Alkhatib has said that 30 of his relatives have been killed during the Gaza war, many of them from Israeli airstrikes.^[23] Several relatives, including his uncle Abdullah Shehada, were killed by an Israeli airstrike in 2023.^[24]

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External links

- [Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib \(https://x.com/afalkhatib\)](https://x.com/afalkhatib) on X
 - [Alkhatib to Mladenov: The airport is a core and real issue in Gaza \(https://english.alwatanvoice.com/news/2016/11/09/988004.html\)](https://english.alwatanvoice.com/news/2016/11/09/988004.html)
 - [Liberman's airport comment not so ridiculous, says Gaza activist \(https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/11/gaza-un-humanitarian-airport-hamas-israel.html\)](https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/11/gaza-un-humanitarian-airport-hamas-israel.html)
 - [AN AIRPORT IN GAZA, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL \(https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/An-airport-in-Gaza-for-the-benefit-of-all-482943\)](https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/An-airport-in-Gaza-for-the-benefit-of-all-482943)
 - [An Israeli Airstrike on Gaza Nearly Killed Me. But I Recognize Both Sides' Trauma \(https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.786562\)](https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.786562)
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