



CULTURE ——— OCTOBER 30, 2023

The Meaning Behind the Palestinian Fabric on *Vogue* Arabia's November 2023 Cover

by VOGUE ARABIA



Vogue Arabia's November 2023 issue calls for humanity and pays homage to the doctors and journalists in Gaza. It features traditional Palestinian embroidery, in an ode to its culture, and has quickly become the most shared and engaged-with cover in the publication's history.



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Vogue Arabia's November edition is a call for peace and humanity, condemning terrorism and the killing of innocent lives.

The issue is dedicated to the brave doctors, nurses, and reporters in Gaza, paying homage to their heroic commitment as they implement vital work amid inhuman conditions.

What is currently happening in Gaza, in front of the eyes of the world, is one of the biggest disasters in history, and a failure shared by us all. While individually we cannot stop the death toll in Gaza, we can collectively raise our voices, putting pressure on governments and international organizations to find a peaceful solution to stop the violence. This should be a global effort, regardless of our ethnicity or religion.

Our November cover features traditional hand-embroidery from different regions of Palestine, in an ode to its culture and a further appeal for humanity. Vogue Arabia has been supporting the non-profit organization Doctors Without Borders, which is actively working to provide aid to innocent civilians. Head to Vogue.me to find a list of other relief organizations to support now.

[#VogueArabia](https://twitter.com/VogueArabia)

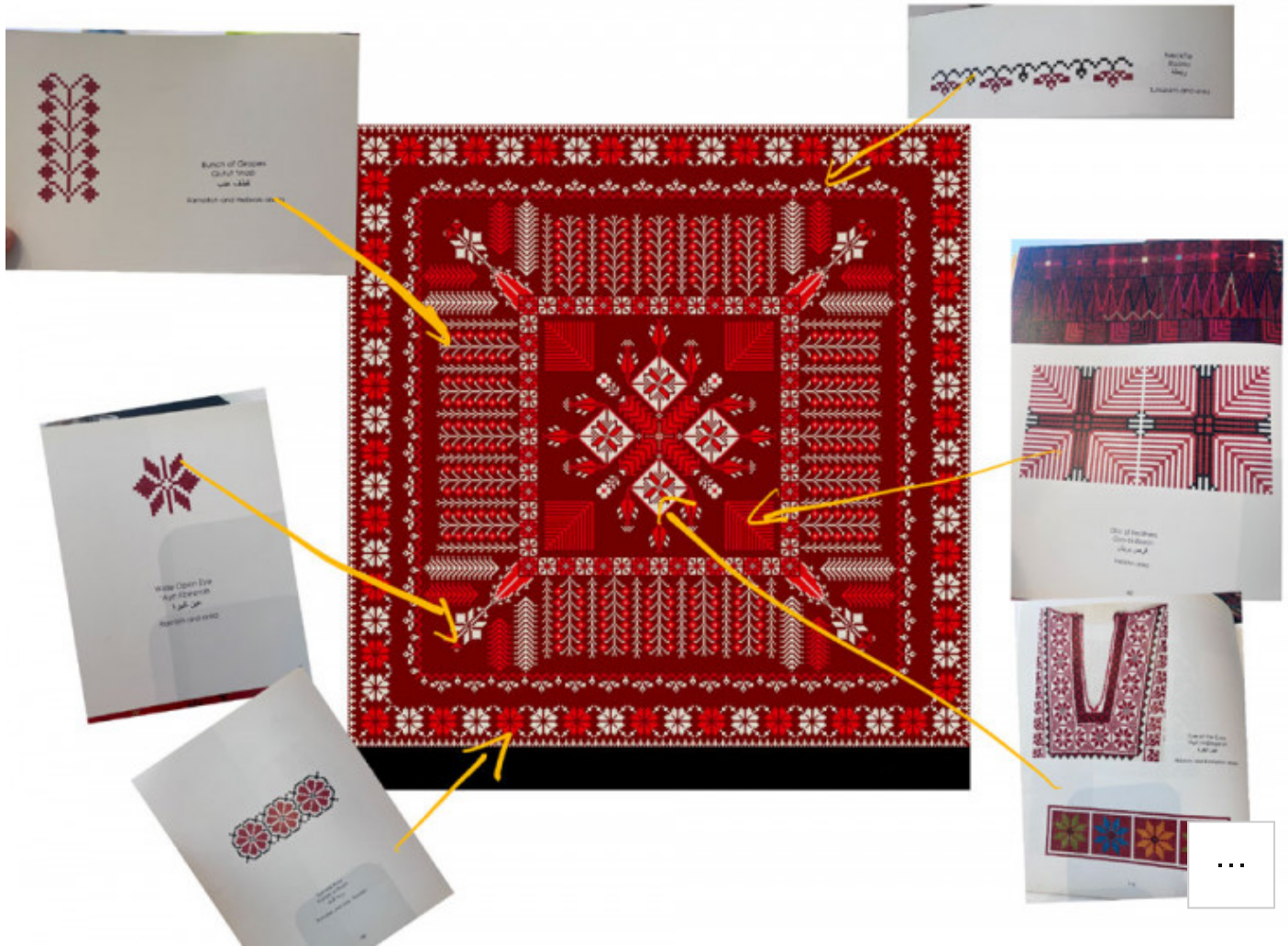
سيكون عدد نوفمبر من فوغ العربية بمثابة دعوة للسلام والإنسانية، وإدانة للإرهاب وقتل أرواح الأبرياء ونكرّس هذا العدد للاحتفاء بشجاعة الأطباء والممرضين والمراسلين الإعلاميين في غزة، نساءً ورجالاً، وتقدير التزامهم البطولي بأداء أدوارهم شديدة الأهمية وسط ظروف غير إنسانية. إن ما يجري حاليًا في غزة، أمام أنظار العالم، لمن أشد الكوارث في التاريخ، وفشل جماعي لنا جميعًا. وبينما لا نستطيع بمفردنا وقف أعداد القتلى في غزة، بوسعنا رفع أصواتنا جميعًا للضغط على الحكومات والمنظمات الدولية لإيجاد حل سلمي لوقف العنف. ويجب أن يكون ذلك جهدًا عالميًا، بغض النظر عن العرق أو الدين.

ويزدان غلاف عددنا لشهر نوفمبر بالتطريز اليدوي التراثي من مختلف مناطق فلسطين، احتفاءً بثقافتها وكنداء آخر للإنسانية. وقد ظلّت فوغ العربية تدعم منظمة 'أطباء بلا حدود' غير الربحية التي تعمل بنشاط على تقديم المساعدات للمدنيين الأبرياء. تفضلوا بزيارة موقعنا الإلكتروني للاطلاع على قائمة بالمنظمات الإغاثية التي تستقبل تبرعاتكم حاليًا [#فوغ_العربية](https://twitter.com/VogueArabia)

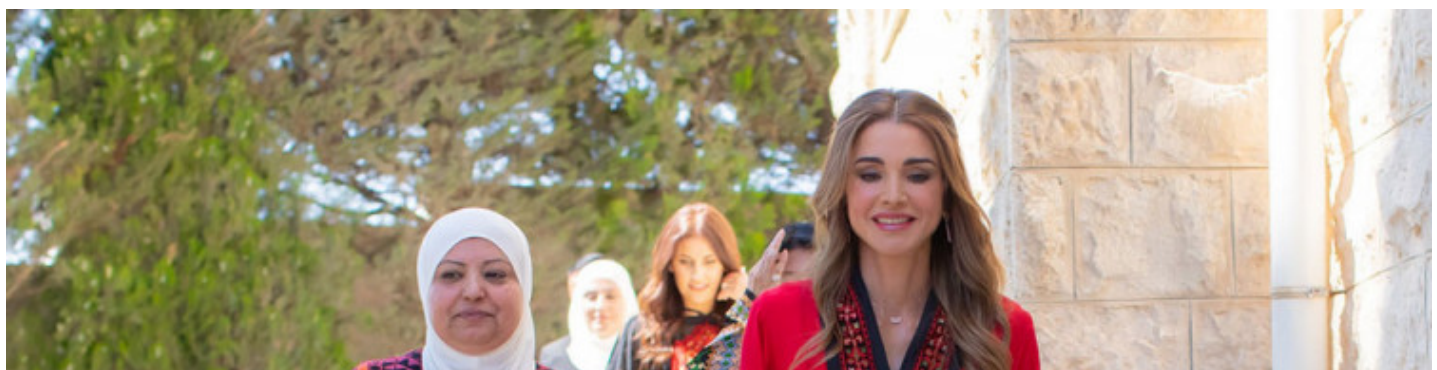
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The fabric seen on the issue is covered in an embroidery also known as tatreez, which originated in Palestine 3,000 years ago, and has since carried a deep meaning in the region. It is also popular in other Levantine countries like Jordan, with each nation presenting some changes in the embroidery pattern. Over centuries, the skill has been passed on by women as an inter-generational practice and used as a means to tell the story of Palestine and its people. Each nuance in color and pattern denotes everything, from the region the wearer is from, to personal milestones including social and marital status. In 2021, the United Nations cultural agency (Unesco) also added tatreez to its



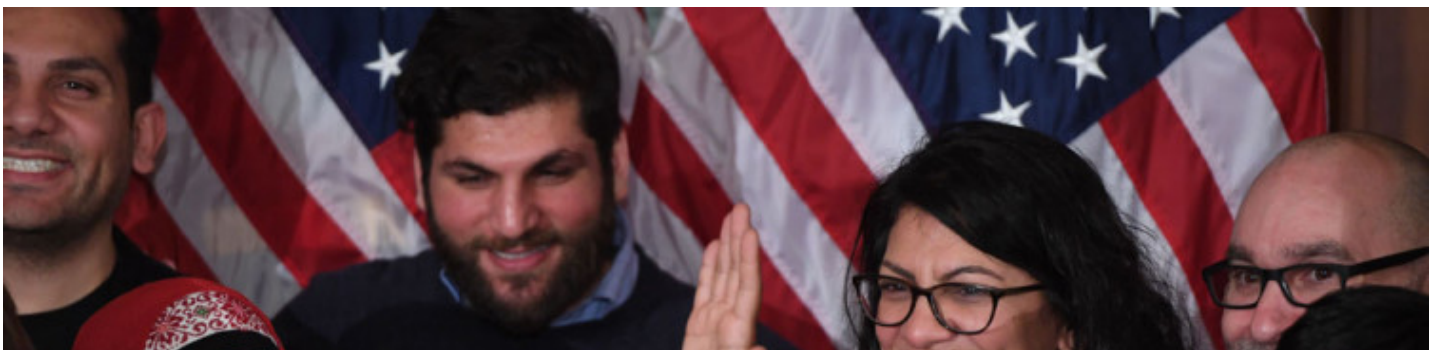
For this issue, Palestinian designer Zaid Farouki acted as a cultural advisor and helped recognize the various cities of his homeland that are represented by different motifs on the cover. The image above illustrates how all the patterns come together to form a rich tapestry that is most commonly seen on loose traditional garments known as thobes.

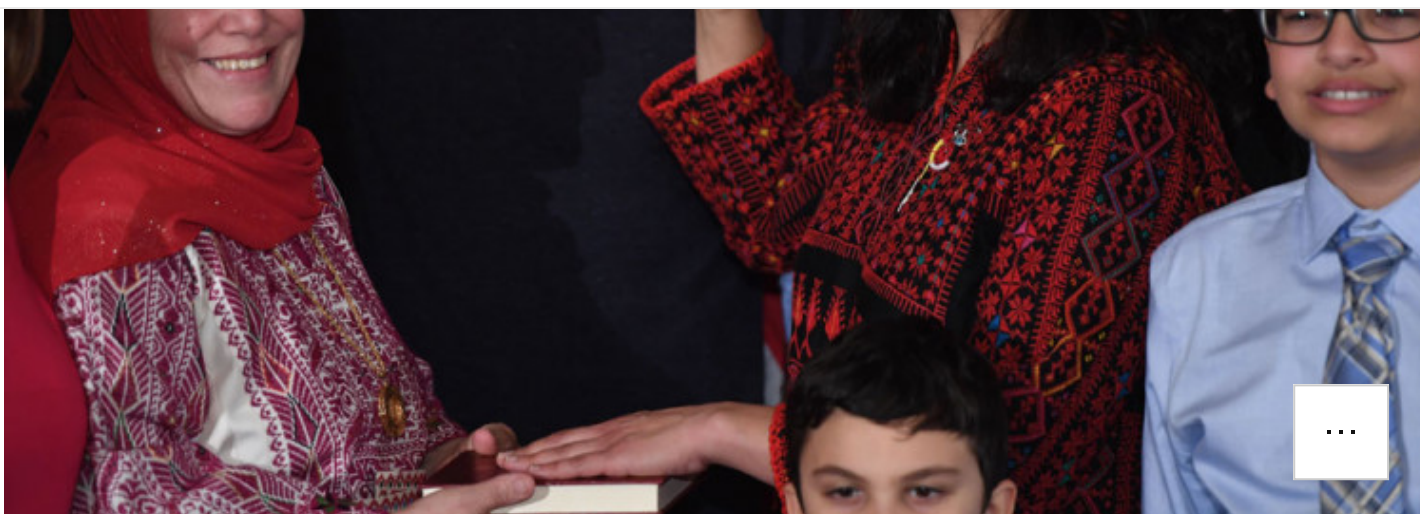




Queen Rania. Photo: Courtesy of RHCJO

It has also received global attention courtesy of public figures such as HM Queen Rania of Jordan, who is of Palestinian origin and has worn pieces with tatreez on multiple occasions. In 2018, when Michigan Democrat Rashida Tlaib made history as the first Palestinian and one of the two Muslim women elected to US Congress, she did so in a traditional thobe hand-embroidered by her mother.





Rashida Tlaib. Photo: Instagram.com

At a time when humanity is of utmost importance, this fabric stands as a key pillar in keeping Palestinian culture alive, just as it was done for centuries by the hands of the artisans, passing it from one generation to the next.



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