From Bashar Alyateem, Dar Al-Kalima School, Bethlehem

Life in Palestine has always been a challenge. In the past years, I have witnessed the death and injustices against my fellow Palestinian brothers and sisters. This has affected me and the people around me. It has traumatized several people I know, and it has changed my perspective on the occupation as a whole. The occupation has limited my rights as a human being, it doesn’t allow me to visit my land freely, it provides my with a limited water supply, and I can’t move freely with the land of Palestine, because there are a lot of restriction such as checkpoints. Day by day the occupation pressures us to retaliate. However, Palestinians know that violence worsens the conflict and have decided that peace is the only solution to this conflict.

My life has been affected by many factors like sports, family, the occupation, scouts, and school. I have been playing sports since I was a little kid. It has made me a hardcore Dortmund fan. Sports are a hobby that has connected me with many kids in my neighborhood that I believe will be lifelong friends. Family is important to me as well. They help in my troubles, and they encourage me to be strong, smart, and independent. My family has assisted me in every way possible throughout my life, and I wouldn’t be the same person without them. The occupation has changed my life. It has changed the life of my family and my friend, which also affects me and the course of my life greatly. The scouts have inspired my tremendous admiration for my country and the people who are constantly trying to create a solution for the conflict plaguing this region...

I want to be involved in human rights organizations. I want Palestine to proved its citizens with their human rights. That would be a huge step towards our goal of reaching an independent Palestinian country. I believe people should be provided with the rights they deserve, especially since the Palestinian people are deprived of their human rights like access to clean water. A government can only survive if it provides its people with the rights they need to survive. Human rights are a very important topic in my life. An example is, the prisoners who are deprived of their rights. I would like to provide these prisoners with their basic rights, because no person deserves to be treated like that...

I also want the voices of Palestinians to be heard so the countries that control the media can become aware of our situation. My greatest wish is that all of these things are achieved in my lifetime.