



Finally; out of Gaza, taking the same path my colleagues and I used to enter.

Walking this 700 meter-caged-red floor-tunnel definitely has its own meaning for each of us. It is the limbo connecting (or separating) two worlds. The 10 minutes it takes to walk gives you enough time to contemplate where you are going, what you are leaving behind and what is waiting for you at the other end.

...for me, entering 44 days ago meant leaving the safety of my home in Ramallah for a besieged war zone. It's a shot in the dark with no clue of what I will have to face.

Walking back, slowly, the last month and a half flashes past me as if I was watching it through

a blurred windshield at high speed. Every scene, every emotion, every tear and every laugh consumes me and yet, releases me, as if a warm shower tenderly washes away all the horror that I had accumulated and stored within.

Then I realize it's the same emotion every time I leave a war zone... that bittersweet taste of the mind-bomb. On the one hand I am conscious of both the excitement and guilt, knowing that in few hours my days are going to have a radical change, like comforts, friends, good food, no salty tap water, no risk of being dismembered by airstrike at any moment, alcohol, my village, a swim in the lake, my motorbike waiting to be ridden: my life, in other words everything. And on the other hand the relief of escaping all the scenes I saw in this conflict and the guilt of

leaving behind all the people I met for whom it is not a matter of deciding when to leave Gaza. They don't have this luxurious choice of mine. They are condemned to stay there amid the risks, pain, sadness and uncertainty of the future.

Alessio Romerzi



Rafah: July 11 - A donkey pulls a cart through Rafah as four rockets are fired from the city into Israel. Rafah is home to 152,950 Palestinians the overwhelming majority is made up of Palestinian refugees.



Gaza City: July 20 - Palestinians flee the Shuja'iyya neighbourhood in Gaza City as Israel unleashes its heaviest bombardment to date. It had been the deadliest single day for the Palestinians in the latest conflict and the deadliest for the Israeli military in years.



Gaza City: July 20 - Palestinians flee Israel's heavy bombardment of the Shuja'iyya neighbourhood in Gaza City. The IDF's ground offensive was meant to root out Hamas's vast network of underground tunnels, many of them leading into Israel, and to quell the continuing rocket fire from Gaza.



Gaza City: July 26 - A panoramic view of the Shuja'iyya neighbourhood of Gaza City taken from the damaged Al-Murabetin Mosque. (8 frame photo merge)