by David Deaton

Iktamal drawn after death. February 15, 1989.

العنال نعيم عبد الله
توفيت ١٠-٢-١٩٨٩م

When Canadian artist Heather Spears visited the West Bank and Gaza earlier this year, these were the souvenirs she brought back.

These are the pictures the Israeli government doesn't want you to see, the ones which show that resistance has a human face. Hastily sketched on the backs of envelopes, her artwork had to be smuggled out of the country.

Spears, currently on a cross-country tour, showed 75 slides of her work to about as many people last Wednesday in the Killam Auditorium. Although discussion was welcomed afterwards, there was none.

What could be said? Her pictures defy discussion, let alone debate. Before such heart-gripping evidence of inhumanity one feels shame simply in being a witness.
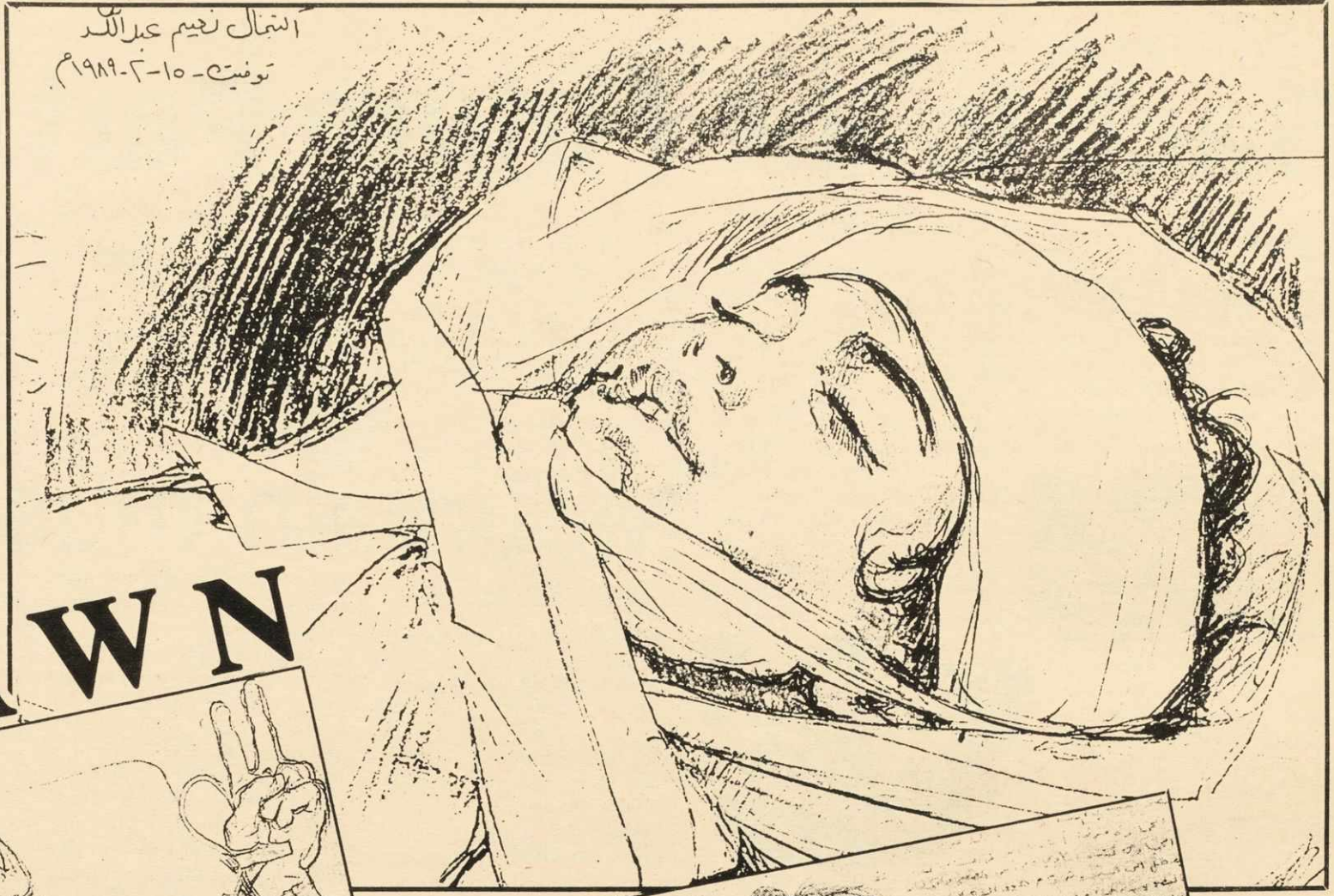
DRAWN

FROM

— Children of the Intifada —

THE

The Palestinian uprising (popularly known as the Intifada) will mark its second anniversary next week. In the last two years, more than 600 Palestinians have been killed, thousands more wounded, and tens of thousands arrested and "detained".

Spears focused on Israel's least known but most numerous victims — *children*. They are fair game for Occupation forces. The children we see in her pictures were beaten, shot, run over.

Their faces are hauntingly beautiful. In their eyes may be seen a purity of suffering that can only be described as angelic.

But their faces are also radiantly defiant. Though some have barely the strength to remain conscious, they raise their hands in revolutionary salute. If these pictures reveal just how the Intifada has so far been crushed, they also prophesy how surely it will continue.

Israeli "rubber bullet."

FIRE

"Revolution to Victory."

Art and politics have proverbially been considered to be oil and water. In Heather Spears' work, the combination is stunning.

Drawn from the Fire depicts a monstrous wrong being done while at the same time preserving a terrible beauty. For Heather Spears and the Intifada, a great cause has found a great artist. Her pictures are timeless.