



**2021 REFUGEES & HUMAN RIGHTS
CHILD & YOUTH POETRY CONTEST
DIVISION 3 – GRADES 9 TO 13**

**HUZAIFA SAFRI, GRADE 9
RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL
THIRD PRIZE**



WE NEVER FORGOT

We hid behind the rubble each day
Our towns and cities razed while our sky became more gray
We watched as they attacked us one by one and all we could do was
watch in dismay
But we waited and hoped that you would come rescue us someday
We never forgot when we requested aid from far, but you cared more
about reaching Mars

Little children would walk hours for food and water
Families lived in bombed homes with the noise of gunshots only getting
stronger
But we cried ourselves to sleep thinking tomorrow the noise would be
softer
We never forgot when you left us all alone ignoring that our lives were in
danger

We still remember when you invited us so kindly
Yet when we arrived your kindness disappeared so dramatically
You treated us like we were criminals when you said we'd be family
But we were patient, hoping one day we'd be happy
We never forgot when you said it would be okay but you threw us in
cages so far away



We were transferred from one cage to another
Our treatment was similar to that of a prisoner
We were kept like hostages, sharing one person's food between ten others
But we waited gratefully expecting to be released from this perimeter
We never forgot when we the survivors were treated as lawbreakers

Finally we were released and excited to begin our new lives
Except instead of being met with kindness we were met with hate crimes
No one wanted to accept us even if we moved hundreds of miles
But we masked our sadness behind fake smiles
We never forgot when the world avoided us despite the challenges we climbed