



POEMS

## **SOLIDARITY POEM (for all those defending Human Rights)**

By **Sabrina Mahfouz**

Did we imagine life would find us like this,  
lead us here like this?  
Did we not think we would be the ones to find it?  
Will we be the ones to resist attacks  
on equality, dignity, fairness, autonomy, respect –  
two world wars were required for people  
to form a formal idea that these ideals belong to all.  
A post-war dream to keep the seams of humanity intact.  
Now the ambush on those intrinsic values is on,  
and you are the battlefield front line  
armed with expectations of decency  
articulations of suffering,  
asking questions to barrels of eclipsed guns -  
when your time on this earth is gone,  
what would you like to have done?  
The guns may stay silent,  
but you will not  
and because of that, because of you,  
we can still hold the hand of a child,  
talk to them quietly about the goodness of hearts  
people's ability to learn from the past  
to become kinder  
to be the reminder to rules  
that human rights are for us all.