

## Palestinian Novelists

### *Sahar Khalifeh*



#### Writings

Sahar Khalifeh began writing shortly after the 1967 Israeli invasion of Gaza and the West Bank, and published her first novel in 1974. She is considered the foremost Palestinian novelist, widely acclaimed for being the first feminist Palestinian writer, and for her "sensitive, economical and lucid" style. She is the most translated Palestinian author after Mahmoud Darwish. Her fame extends beyond Palestinian and Arab borders, as her translations in many languages attest: She was the only author participating in the French organized Palestinian cultural spring in 1997, whose books sold out immediately.

#### . 1974: "**We are not your Slave Girls Anymore**" :

This first novel made an impact because of its advocacy of women's rights, and was turned into radio and TV series in 1977.

#### . 1975: "**Wild Thorns**" : (الصبار)

This is the book that made Khalifeh famous and gave her literary recognition on an international scale. It is available in a number of languages, among them:

-English: translated by Al Saqi Books, London in 1984, by The Olive Tree in 1988, and in the US by PROTA in 1985. - Spanish: as "*Cactus*", by Txalparta, Madrid, 1994.

The book was also translated into French in 1978 by Gallimard, into Hebrew in 1978 by Galileo, into Dutch in 1980 by Uniebok, into Malay in 1992 by Dewan Bahasa, and into Italian in 1996.

#### . 1980: "**The Sunflower**" : (عباد الشمس)

Translated into Hebrew by Mifras in 1982, into Russian by Progress Press in Moscow in 1982, into French in 1984, and into Dutch in 1985 by Uniebok.

#### . 1986: "**Memoirs of an Unrealistic Woman**" : (مذكرات امرأة غير واقعية)

This novel depicts the life of a woman trapped in a loveless marriage, and intertwines feminist consciousness with political awareness.

Translated into Italian in 1989, into Dutch by De Geus in 1991.