

First Writing Since

Suheir Hammad

the dead are called lost and their families hold up shaky
printouts in front of us through screens smoked up.

we are looking for iris, mother of three. please call with any
information. we are searching for priti, last seen on the 103rd
floor. she was talking to her husband on the phone and the line
went. please help us find george, also known as adel. his family is
waiting for him with his favorite meal. i am looking for my son, who
was delivering coffee. i am looking for my sister girl, she started
her job on monday.

i am looking for peace. i am looking for mercy. i am looking for
evidence of compassion. any evidence of life. i am looking for
life.

Suheir Hammad is the author of a book of poems, Born Palestinian, Born Black, and the memoir Drops of This Story. This is an excerpt from her poem, taken from <www.rethinkingschools.org>.



Missing persons flyers in Union Square Park in New York City, several days after 9/11.