ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS
PALESTINE
(Video - 19 minutes 09 seconds)

Against a background of Palestinian uprising, the intifada, a young news reporter investigates the problems in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by looking at the historical background and talking to people involved on both sides.

Narrator: Jonathan Zachary
Design: Clive Helfet
Sound: John Alberts

A production of the United Nations Department of Public Information and The Mosaic Group, Inc.

Date of Distribution: January 1990
NARRATOR (VOICE-OVER):

The occupied territories on the west bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip: For several years now, scenes like these have been seen on TV around the world on an almost daily basis, and with no end in sight.

SYNC:

"I'm Jonathan Zachary, and I investigated the Palestinian uprising, the intifada, in the summer of 1988 when I was a reporter for an American news service called Children's Express. What our team saw was Palestinian children and teenagers squaring off against Israeli teen-age soldiers with a rage that only a person that lives in the Holy Land can fully understand."

"The intifada, we learned, was on one level a war of children versus children. Back then, we thought the intifada would quickly push Israelis and Palestinians into resolving their forty-year-old conflict. But we were wrong."
NARRATOR (VOICE-OVER):
Instead, Israel's fears for its security have grown stronger; its children act out in school plays what they sense will be their real life just a few years down the road. (13)

And the will of the Palestinian people has grown stronger too, both inside and outside the occupied territories, the will to assert their pride, their solidarity, their identity and their right to national independence and sovereignty. (16)

Dr. Rashid Khalidi, a Palestinian living abroad, can trace his family's roots in Jerusalem back to the eleventh century. (7)

"... because when people say, "Well, you know, the Palestinians can go somewhere else" or "The Palestinians don't have roots in this country," it perhaps is something that might convince people who are totally ignorant but certainly doesn't convince Palestinians." (12)
DR. RASHID KHALIDI (VOICE-OVER):
"For them, the countries where they find themselves in exile, the countries where they find themselves in refuge, or the countries where, in some cases, they find themselves perfectly comfortable, are not only not their country, they are not a substitute for Palestine, and it is this--this kind of rootedness, whether in Nazareth or in Haifa or in Jaffa or in Jerusalem or Neves or wherever ..."
(20)

SYNC:
"... which is at the--at the core, I would argue, of Palestinians’ attachments, Palestinians’ attachment, to their own country."
(5)

NARRATOR (VOICE-OVER):
Inside the occupied territories, you find families like the Az-Zigs. With the other Palestinian families in Jalazoun, Shawfika and Shawki, Az-Ziq fled from a cluster of villages inside Israel back in 1948. They thought they would be leaving for forty-eight hours when fighting broke out.
(18)

But the forty-eight hours turned into forty years.
(2)
To understand the extent of the refugee problem: By late 1948 alone, half the population of Palestine had fled in panic to neighbouring countries. (9)

Here in Jalazoun, run by the United Nations, the Az-Zigs raise their children: the youngest, daughter Rana, and sons Samer and Luay, children who have only known war and occupation. (12)

"My generation is different from the last generation because my generation will do anything to regain its land and freedom." (5)

"Do you ever throw stones at Israeli cars or army patrols?" (3)

"Several time." (1)

The Az-Zigs claim they do not encourage their children to throw stones. (3)
"So if you don’t encourage your sons to throw stones, what do you encourage them to do?"

(Translation from Arabic):

"I’m an intellectual, and I know the real world. I didn’t encourage my children or any children to throw rocks or stones at buses or soldiers. There could be some innocent people in that bus, and I don’t encourage this method. But there is no other method. I encourage my children to study hard and take care of themselves, because a good education is the basis for everything else. Through education, maybe we’ll succeed and regain power."

Reverence for education and the highest rate of university graduates of any Arab nation has sent thousands of Palestinians abroad, a huge population of highly motivated people studying and working in countries that are not their own.

"Would you come with us, please?"
THREE PEOPLE WALKING DOWN CORRIDOR

DR. NASSRI KHOURI (VOICE-OVER):
"I was born in Jerusalem in 1953, the Mount of Olives, actually. And after I completed my degree in medicine, 1978, I went to Toronto in Canada, where I specialized in neurosurgery. I completed that in 1984, worked for a year, and then came back to Amman, and I’ve been here since then." (22)

DR. NASSRI KHOURI W/ PATIENT

"I felt a certain obligation towards my family and my area, my country, my people. My dream would be that I can live in Jerusalem, equal ..." (13)

SYNC:
"... to my neighbor Moslem and my neighbor Jew in a place where we would all be able to--to group together to--to build a better home for our children."

(10)

RAMI KHOURI

NARRATOR (VOICE-OVER):
That dream must come true according to Palestinian Rami Khouri. (3)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIDEO</th>
<th>AUDIO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RAMI KHOURI ON CAMERA</td>
<td>SYNC:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;There are four or five million Palestinians. They won't go away ...&quot; (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMEN DANCING</td>
<td>RAMI KHOURI (VOICE-OVER):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;... they won't give up their identity; they won't assimilate into Australia or Egypt or New Mexico or France.&quot; (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAMI KHOURI ON CAMERA</td>
<td>SYNC:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;When I was maybe eighteen or twenty, I started realizing what it meant to be a Palestinian, 'cause by a process of elimination you realize that, well, you're not really American, you're not really Jordanian, you're not really Lebanese, you're not really Swiss, you're not really Iraqi, and all the countries we lived in, you realize very quickly that you weren't one of these countries ...&quot; (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEN WALKING/STREET SCENE</td>
<td>RAMI KHOURI (VOICE-OVER):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;... you didn't belong to them in the sense that you weren't born there, your cultural traditions didn't come from there, the dialect you spoke wasn't the same as the dialect spoken there, and you realize that you're a Palestinian.&quot; (11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Palestinians' attachment to their land was the source of much strife during the first half of this century. During World War I, the British wooed both the Arabs and the Jews of Palestine. Then, to assure Jewish support, they enacted the Balfour Declaration, which foresaw a Jewish homeland in Palestine. After World War I, Palestine came under British administration which tolerated large-scale Jewish immigration. For Jews, many scarred for life by Nazi atrocities in Europe, their arrival in Palestine was a cause for celebration; for Palestinian Arabs, the threat was frightening.

They rebelled and they mounted protests. And by the end of World War II, the mid-East had become the scene of almost continual violence which the British failed to stem. By 1947, the United Nations endorsed the creation of one Arab and one Jewish state out of the British mandate of Palestine; the following year, Israel, seen in red on this map, was granted nationhood. But the Palestinian Arab state, outlined in green, never came into being.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIDEO</th>
<th>AUDIO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SILHOUETTE OF SOLDIER WITH GUN</td>
<td>Hostilities broke out immediately, and since that time, there have been four full-fledged wars between Israel and its neighbors. Each of those wars caused major changes in territorial limits as cease-fire lines moved back and forth, even during times best described as no-war-no-peace. (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILIDREN/REFUGEES</td>
<td>And each war brought its new wave of Palestinian refugees, in some cases double refugees, people fleeing a second and sometimes a third time from the wars. Palestinians who did not leave the mid-East became the wards of the world. (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFUGEE CAMP</td>
<td>Thousands of people from all sides fell victim to endless attacks and counterattacks, with Israeli and Palestinian civilians repeatedly caught in the middle. (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILDREN ENTERING TENT</td>
<td>The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians, UNRWA, consistently provided registered refugees with food, shelter, health care, and education, a responsibility that continues today. (13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNRWA administrator Basil Anan, seen here in Jordan in 1967, recently reflected on the magnitude of his job.

"Since I was responsible for most of the operation in the East Bank, I had to try to help them as much as I can, and then so many people came to help us: some of them were from the government, some of them were the voluntary agencies, and then other departments in UNRWA which were set up immediately to face this tragic situation."

As the years wore on, the plight of Palestinians persisted. Yet the world around them grew complacent. A political stalemate replaced opportunities for peace. The result?

Palestinians learned not to rely on others. Many decided to make the world aware of their plight through dramatic news headlines.
Infiltration missions into Israel clearly illustrated the conflict between what many Palestinians felt was justifiable but what to others was repugnant.

More recently, in late 1988, Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, offered this dramatic statement:

"... I repeat for the record that we totally and absolutely renounce all forms of terrorism, all forms of terrorism. Our statehood provides salvation to the Palestinians and peace to both, to both Palestinians and Israelis."

But as the intifada continues, an interesting question arises:

You, not Yasir Arafat ...

"... not the P.L.O. are responsible for this intifada, and now Yasir Arafat, after forty years of failure, is saying that he is responsible. Does that upset you at all?"
"The P.L.O. does everything for us. The P.L.O. is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The P.L.O. is responsible for the intifada, both inside and outside the territories. Yes, the intifada started inside the territories but the P.L.O. was aware of it, and we Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip belong to the P.L.O. completely with all our hearts."

(Translation from Arabic)

"And the two main images which I think are the most predominant are, first, the image of the "terrorist" (quote/unquote), and secondly, the image of the refugee. Now, that image would not have been able to gain such credence and would not have been able to drive out the truth were it not for some kernel of fact. One obvious kernel of fact is that many Palestinians have taken up arms against their--their dispossession and against what has happened to them; secondly many, many Palestinians have been turned into refugees. But I think the truest image of the Palestinian is in fact an image of ..."

"... people working extremely hard, generally highly skilled and well educated, in countries which are not their own as expatriate laborers and engaged in doing a variety of--of vital tasks."

DR. RASHID KHALIDI (VOICE-OVER):

SHAWKI AZ-ZIQ ON CAMERA

DR. RASHID KHALIDI ON CAMERA

ARAB BOY IN WOOD SHOP
YET MOST PALESTINIANS STILL LIVE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER.

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN, WHEN NOT IN SCHOOL, ARE TAKING IT UPON THEMSELVES TO BATTLE FOR THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE THAT THEIR ELDERS HAVE FAILED TO WIN.

"IS THE REASON THAT THE CHILDREN ARE FIGHTING—IS (IT) BECAUSE THE ADULTS CAN’T FIGHT BY THEMSELVES? THEY NEEDED TO USE THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN?"

"IT’S NOT A CHILD’S PROBLEM, REALLY, BUT THESE CHILDREN ARE NOT REALLY CHILDREN, THEY MAY LOOK LIKE CHILDREN, BUT THEY ARE AS WISE AS ADULT MEN, BOTH IN THE WAY THEY THINK AND IN THE WAY THEY BEHAVE."

DO YOU KNOW ANY ISRAELI CHILDREN YOUR OWN AGE?
(Translation from Arabic):

"No, I don't, 'cause I've nothing to do with them. We live worlds apart. I've nothing against Israeli kids, because I'm sure they don't know anything about my problems. They're living their own life, with all its amenities, and later on when I grow up, I'm sure their parents will teach them to hate Arabs and Muslims, and then they will become my enemies."

(16)

SYNC:

"Are you scared of them?"

(Translation from Arabic):

"No."

NARRATOR (VOICE-OVER):

Why not?

(Translation from Arabic):

"Because I believe in God—and in my fate."

(2)
NARRATOR (VOICE-OVER):
God and fate: Some Palestinians justify their fight for a homeland on the basis of religious faith. Most Israeli settlers justify their presence in the same land on the basis of Biblical beliefs. (14)

Just an hour from Jalazoun, Biblical scholar Tuvia Grossman and his family live in the settlement of Karnei Shamron. Like most remote Israeli settlements on the West Bank, it is a religious community built high on a mountaintop that was Palestinian until it came under Israeli occupation after the 1967 Arab/Israeli war. (21)

NARRATOR (VOICE-OVER):
Did you see the intifada coming? (1)

SHAUL GROSSMAN (VOICE-OVER):
"No. I don’t think anyone did ..." (1)

SYNC:
"... just came sort of like thunder on a clear blue sky." (3)
"What would you suggest that the Arabs do, the Palestinian people? They do have a right to a homeland; where would you suggest they go?"

"As far as we're concerned, they can stay right here."

"Most of the land around here is fairly empty, some of it is graze, some of it's cultivated, but it's certainly not densely populated. Many of the villages here are our friends. There's no reason in the world if there is peace that they should not stay right where they are. There's enough room for all of us."

Palestinians would agree with this statement--however, not under Israeli occupation as Palestine’s permanent observer to the United Nations Zuhdi Terzi explains:
"We can all live in that same land, provided we all have the same rights. And that will bring us back to having a democratic state all over Palestine. But since Israel—again I repeat, since Israel rejects that approach, that’s why we go for the two-state solution, hoping that it will develop into a peaceful solution for the future."

(20)

"The person who built our house was an Arab, and we even got invited to a wedding of one of his cousins. We had a very close relationship with them, and basically it was—except the fact that we knew that they were Arabs and we were Jews and we had different background, backgrounds and basically it was obvious that we belonged to different ethnic groups—definitely I didn’t think that I had any different relationship with that Arab than with any Israeli."

(24)
VIDEO

FAMILY LEAVING HOME

STONE MASON/STREET PAVER

HOUSES IN SUBURBS

AUDIO

NARRATOR (VOICE-OVER):
The Grossmans’ house, like most houses in Karnei Shamron, was built by local Arabs. (5)

And despite the intifada with its strikes and boycotts, some Arabs continue to build for their Israeli clients, cause for much Palestinian anger inside the occupied territories, where the settlements are resented. (13)

SYNC:

"One of the Arab architects who built these houses—he told my friend, you know, he said to them, "You know why we’re building so good houses for you, so—and so big ones? ’cause when the war is—when the intifada’s gonna be finished, we’re gonna come and sit in these houses." I mean, they’re—the only thing they want is just taking our place, just throwing us into the sea." (19)

SYNC:

"This is not at all true. Because the fact is that with their occupation of all of Palestine, the Israelis have rendered the entire Palestinian people—almost 5 million of us—as refugees away from their own homes. So it is they who threw us out into the desert, and it’s not the other way around." (17)
The older Grossman boys will soon join the Israeli army as part of their compulsory military service.

They could serve in places like Jalazoun, whose young people, like the Az-Ziqs, will undoubtedly continue to resist the Israeli army’s humiliating occupation and continue to work toward forming a government of their own, a Palestinian government.

"What do you expect to be doing ten years from now?"

"In ten years, once there’s a Palestinian or Islamic state on the West Bank, maybe I’ll have an important position. In any case, I want to be one of the people who tries to liberate his country."
NARRATOR (VOICE-OVER): The United Nations Secretary-General is in daily contact with all of the parties to the dispute in order to reach a just and lasting peace. For the UN General Assembly the solution is clear. Israel, which it created, has a right to live within secure and recognized boundaries and the Palestinians, long deprived of a homeland, have the right to a state of their own. (25)