



**JUST VISION PRESENTS**

# **BUDRUS**

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO UNITE THE MOST DIVIDED PEOPLE ON EARTH.**



**“A poignant chronicle...This inspiring documentary stresses peaceful resistance as the best means of conflict resolution.”**

**Variety**



# WHO'S WHO



## AYED MORRAR

A leader of the movement in Budrus, Ayed organized the first “Popular Committee Against the Wall” in the West Bank by uniting all local Palestinian political factions, including Hamas and Fatah, and encouraging hundreds of Israelis to cross into the Occupied Palestinian Territories and

demonstrate in support of his village. When challenged by his teenage daughter, he welcomed the launch of a women’s contingent that quickly moved to the front lines. Ayed chose nonviolence “because it is in the best interest of the Palestinian people to follow this path.”



## ILTEZAM MORRAR

Ayed’s 15-year-old daughter was the first villager to succeed in getting past the Israeli border police and stopping a bulldozer by courageously jumping in front of it. Her fearlessness galvanizes the entire village and affirms the importance of women in the movement. The demonstrations in Budrus marked the first time that Iltezam, like most

of the village’s youth, met Israelis who were not soldiers or settlers. She says, “I visited many times my father in prison and all the Israelis that I met were very, very bad, but now I know that not all Israelis are the same. Some of them want to live together in peace.”



## YASMINE LEVY

Yasmine is sent to Budrus as a squad commander in the border police and comes face to face with the woman participating in the demonstrations. Her responsibility is to ensure that the Barrier gets built according to the path set by the military. Over the course of the demonstrations she develops a complex relationship with the women

in the village who call her by name in their chants. She says, “Even if the women were beaten or shot, they had no problem with it. They went to all lengths to ensure their land would remain theirs.”



## AHMED AWWAD

A Hamas member who works with Ayed to mobilize the people of Budrus, Ahmed talks about nonviolence as a strategic tool, best suited to achieve the village’s aims. He expresses surprise at the Israeli civilians who come to support the demonstrations by putting their bodies on the line and confronting other

Israelis serving in the military: “We had already heard that there were some Israelis who wanted peace with the Palestinians. But these demonstrations exceeded expectations. . . . In these marches I saw these Israeli voices in real life; it wasn’t just something I heard about.”



## KOBI SNITZ

Israeli mathematician who joined the demonstrations in Budrus because of his belief that direct action was missing in the Israeli peace movement at the time. “When we got about 200 meters from the soldiers, and they were armed... I was sure we were going to die. But there were others around me who weren’t even cowering.

And gradually I got over my fear and got stronger from their strength and determination.”



## DORON SPIELMAN

A spokesperson for the Israeli army, Doron does not believe nonviolent demonstrations can change the route of the Separation Barrier. He believes that the goal to provide security “trumps everything.” For him, the use of Palestinian property to build the Separation Barrier “is extremely unfortunate to the lives of the Palestinian

people, however is less unfortunate than the death of an Israeli civilian.”

# SYNOPSIS



**Ayed Morrar, an unlikely community organizer, unites Palestinians from all political factions and Israelis to save his village from destruction by Israel's Separation Barrier. Victory seems improbable until his 15-year-old daughter, Iltezam, launches a women's contingent that quickly moves to the front lines.**

Struggling side by side, father and daughter unleash an inspiring, yet little-known movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories that is still gaining ground today. In an action-filled documentary chronicling this movement from its infancy, Budrus shines a light on people who choose nonviolence to confront a threat yet remain virtually unknown to the world. The movie is directed by award-winning filmmaker Julia Bacha (writer/editor Control Room, co-director Encounter Point), and produced by Bacha, Palestinian journalist Rula Salameh, and filmmaker and human rights advocate Ronit Avni (formerly of WITNESS, director of Encounter Point).

While this film is about one Palestinian village, it tells a much bigger story about what is possible in the Middle East. Ayed succeeded in doing what many people believe to be impossible: he united feuding Palestinian political factions, including Fatah and Hamas; he brought women to the heart of the struggle through the leadership of his daughter, Iltezam; and he

encouraged hundreds of Israelis to cross into Palestinian territory for the first time and join this nonviolent effort.

Budrus includes diverse voices from the Palestinian leaders of the movement and their Israeli allies to an Israeli military spokesman, Doron Spielman, and Yasmine Levy, the Israeli border police officer stationed in the village at that time. While many documentaries about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict either romanticize the notion of peace, or dwell entirely on the suffering of victims to the conflict, this film focuses on the success of a Palestinian-led nonviolent movement.

In a keynote address immediately following the debut of Budrus at a Gala screening at the Dubai International Film Festival in December 2009, **Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein of Jordan** praised the film, stating that Budrus: **Gives an enormous amount of hope... It's a story which will have an impact and can help bring change.**

*Budrus was created by Just Vision, a nonprofit organization that tells inspiring stories seldom seen on the nightly news about Palestinians and Israelis working for nonviolent solutions to the conflict. For more information visit [www.justvision.org](http://www.justvision.org).*

## IMAGES FROM BUDRUS



Visit [www.justvision.org](http://www.justvision.org) or email [info@justvision.org](mailto:info@justvision.org) for more information.



# ON THE ROAD



## DUBAI

**Budrus was the Cultural Bridge Gala film at the Dubai International Film Festival on December 13, 2009. The evening included a keynote speech by Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan.**



*Julia Bacha on a panel moderated by Shamil Idriss, CEO of Soliya, about the power of film to bridge divides following HM Queen Noor's speech.*



*Iltezam Morrar, Ayed Morrar, Julia Bacha and Rula Salameh at a press conference in Dubai.*



*The protagonists deliver a moving speech about what they hope the film will achieve.*



*Rula Salameh (producer), Iltezam Morrar (protagonist), Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein of Jordan, Julia Bacha (director/producer), Ronit Avni (producer/executive producer) and Ayed Morrar (protagonist).*

## BERLIN

**Budrus received the Panorama Audience Award second prize at the Berlin International Film Festival in February 2010 after premiering to sold out audiences.**



*Julia Bacha accepts the Panorama Audience Award, second prize.*



*Julia Bacha, Ayed Morrar and Kobi Snitz (protagonist) interviewed on Berlin Radio EINS.*



*Rula Salameh responds to audience questions in Q&A following Budrus screening.*



*Ayed Morrar, Kobi Snitz and Ronit Avni respond to audience questions.*

# ON THE ROAD



## NEW YORK

**Budrus premiered in the U.S. at the Tribeca Film Festival in April 2010 and was awarded the Special Jury Mention. Her Majesty Queen Noor hosted a private screening and presented Just Vision and Ayed Morrar with the King Hussein Leadership Prize.**



*Iltezam Morrar, Ayed Morrar, Rula Salameh, Julia Bacha, and Ronit Avni on the red carpet at the US premiere of Budrus.*



*Amanda Palmer, director of the Doha Tribeca Film Festival, moderates a panel with filmmakers and protagonists following the Budrus premiere.*



*Michael Moore with the Budrus team at the Tribeca premiere.*



*All four Budrus screenings at Tribeca were completely sold out.*



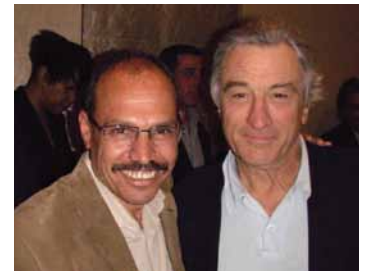
*HM Queen Noor presents Ayed Morrar with the King Hussein Leadership Prize.*



*Julia Bacha & Ronit Avni accept the King Hussein Leadership Prize on behalf of Just Vision.*



*Ronit Avni responds to a question from Christiane Amanpour during the panel discussion following the private screening hosted by HM Queen Noor.*



*Robert DeNiro congratulates Ayed Morrar after Budrus wins the Special Jury Mention at Tribeca.*

## REACTIONS

**"A complex, not agitational documentary that shows a balanced picture of its competing protagonists. It finds a story for the future... in the shape of a social movement driven by pragmatism."**

**- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung**

**"Budrus chronicles a small victory in a much larger and uncertain battle, but with so much hopelessness in the region, it's worth highlighting and, hopefully, emulating."**

**- The Nation**

**"A strong piece of work from intelligent filmmakers."**

**- The Jewish Week**

**"A moving sliver of hope that nonviolent resistance may yet blossom out of violence."**

**- New York Magazine**

**"A powerful film filled with the kind of hope you rarely see around this issue."**

**- Michael Moore**

**"★★★★"**

**- Now Magazine**

**"This story is a journey that stretches beyond borders to provide hope, and it should be seen by everyone."**

**- Jessica Alba, Actress**



# BIOS

## **JULIA BACHA (Director, Producer, Editor)**

Julia Bacha is an award-winning filmmaker who has worked on films exhibited at the Sundance, Tribeca, Berlin, Jerusalem, and Dubai International Film Festivals, and broadcast on the BBC, HBO, Sundance, CBC and Al Arabiya television channels. Julia wrote and co-directed the feature documentary *Encounter Point* (Typecast Films, 2006). *Encounter Point* premiered at Tribeca Film Festival in 2006 and won five major international awards, including the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the San Francisco Film Festival. Julia also co-wrote and edited Jehane Noujaim's critically acclaimed documentary, *Control Room* (Magnolia Pictures, 2004), which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and for which she was nominated to the Writer's Guild of America Award in 2005. Julia is a Senior Producer and Media Director at Just Vision. She studied Middle Eastern history and politics at Columbia University and upon graduation received the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa award.

## **RONIT AVNI (Producer, Executive Producer)**

Ronit Avni, filmmaker and human rights advocate, directed and produced the award-winning feature documentary film, *Encounter Point*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2006 and won five major international awards. She is also the founder and Executive Director of Just Vision, a non-profit organization that creates media about Palestinian and Israeli civilians who are working to resolve the conflict non-violently. She has co-produced short videos and online video advocacy features in collaboration with filmmakers in Senegal, Burkina Faso, the U.S. and Brazil while working at Peter Gabriel's organization, WITNESS. She appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show in 2005 and her work was featured on Oprah.com. Ronit was named a Young Global Leader in 2009 and joined the YGL Network.

## **JEHANE NOUJAIM (Executive Producer)**

Jehane Noujaim began her career as a photographer and filmmaker in Cairo, Egypt. She attended Harvard University and was awarded the Gardiner Fellowship. She then joined MTV as a producer for the series *Unfiltered*. Noujaim left her producing job at MTV to produce and direct *Startup.com*, which played as part of Sundance's documentary competition in 2001. The film won numerous awards, including the Directors Guild of America and IDA Awards for best documentary. In 2004, she directed the highly acclaimed film *Control Room*, which premiered at Sundance. After winning the TED Prize in 2006, Jehane used her wish to organize Pangea Day, a live show featuring short films used for social change, which was broadcast internationally in 2008.

## **RULA SALAMEH (Producer)**

Rula is the Outreach Coordinator at Just Vision and a long-time Palestinian journalist who co-founded the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation in 1993, following the Oslo Agreement. Rula has worked as a reporter for Qatari Radio where she became the first Palestinian to cover the Gulf Region, and for the Arab Media Center, the main press office in East Jerusalem during the first Intifada. She was also a producer of the main live political program at Ajjyal Radio, an FM Radio Station in Ramallah. Prior to joining Just Vision, Rula was the Project Coordinator for Middle East Non-Violence and Democracy (MEND) for three years.

## **GEETA GANDBHIR (Supervising Editor)**

Geeta has over eighteen years of editing experience in film and television. She has worked with Spike Lee, Robert Altman and Sam Pollard. In television, she has worked for PBS, MTV, Discovery, Court TV, Oxygen Media and many others. Recent works include the PBS series *African American Lives* with Henry Lewis Gates, the four-hour documentary *When the Levees Broke* for filmmaker Spike Lee for which she won an Emmy Award for Best Editing, as well as *Music by Prudence*, the 2010 Academy Award winner for Best Documentary Short. Most recently, she completed work on Edward Norton's film entitled *By the People: The Election of Barack Obama*.

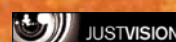
## **SHAI CARMELI-POLLACK (Filmed by)**

Shai is an Israeli director and writer from Jaffa. He has worked on television series for Israel's Channel 2, including *Zheng and Abramov*. His first feature documentary film, *Bilin My Love (Bil'in Habibti, 2006)*, about the nonviolent struggle in the Palestinian village of Bil'in was broadcast on Israel's Channel 8. His most recent documentary film *Refugees*, chronicling African refugees who cross the border to Israel from Egypt, aired on Channel 2 and Reshet in Israel.

## **JUST VISION**

*Budrus* is produced by the non-profit organization, Just Vision. By telling inspiring stories that are not making the nightly news, Just Vision brings power and legitimacy to Palestinians and Israelis working for nonviolent solutions to the conflict. Just Vision's strategy is to create award-winning media in order to cross borders, reach millions of people around the globe and bring attention to peace builders and nonviolence leaders whose impact and example have been conspicuously absent in coverage of the conflict.

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