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## **ENCOUNTER POINT**

**Dialogue List (04.07.07)**

**TRT 01:24:45:00**

*TC: 00:00:03;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**JUST VISION PRESENTS**

*TC: 00:00:22;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**SAMI AL JUNDI**  
**PALESTINIAN**

**Sami:** Today there are many Israeli military checkpoints because they are expecting an attack against Israel in revenge for Israel's killing of Palestinians yesterday. Here we go again, another road block. God knows if we'll be allowed through, or not. It all depends on our luck. There are many, many cars.

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**SHLOMO ZAGMAN**  
**ISRAELI**

**Shlomo:** There could be terror and suicide bombers. So I understand that the army has to check Palestinians who are trying to come into Israel. Most come for work, but some have hostile aims. One of them could be a terrorist.

So now we're reaching a checkpoint....

That's it. Just wave hello and pass. You smile.

**Sami:** Are they letting people through or not?

*TC: 00:02:42;00*

*TITLE OVER BLACK:*

**ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN A BITTER  
CONFLICT FOR GENERATIONS**

*TITLE OVER BLACK:*

**PALESTINIANS STRUGGLE TO END ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION  
AND CREATE AN INDEPENDENT STATE**

*TITLE OVER BLACK:*

**ISRAELIS ACT TO SECURE THEMSELVES AGAINST ATTACKS BY  
PALESTINIANS , NEARBY STATES AND MILITANT GROUPS**

*TITLE OVER BLACK:*

**PEOPLE FROM BOTH SIDES SEARCH FOR NON-VIOLENT SOLUTIONS**

*TITLE OVER BLACK:*

**ENCOUNTER POINT**

*TC: 00:03:35;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**TEL AVIV  
ISRAEL**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ISRAELI RADIO HOST**

**Robi:** Hello.

**Mike:** Robi?

**Robi:** Yes.

**Mike:** Is that better?

**Robi:** Yes, much better.

**Mike:** Before they do a couple of tests for your voice, can I ask you a question? You can tell me yes or no. Can I ask you a question about what happened to David or you don't want to...

**Robi:** You can ask me anything you like.

**Mike:** Anything? Ok, great.

**Mike:** On the line I have Robi Damelin who is from the Parents Circle Families Forum, the Bereaved Families supporting peace, reconciliation and tolerance. Shalom, Robi.

**Robi:** Good afternoon.

**Mike:** Can you please tell us what happened to your son?

**Robi:** My son David was killed two years ago. He was in the reserves and he was killed by a sniper.

**Mike:** Can you explain how you can meet people from...I don't know how to put it, from the other side?

**Robi:** I don't think anybody could ever understand what it is to lose a child; and these people who I meet share the same pain as I do. The real reason that we are doing the work that we're doing is to prevent further death.

**Mike:** Robi, thank you very much.

**Robi:** Thank you too.  
Enough.

**Robi (VO):** Sometimes I'm very angry with myself -- that I didn't protect my child. So what do you do with this pain? Do you take it and look for revenge and keep the whole cycle of violence going? Or do you choose another path, to prevent further death and further pain to other parents?

*TC: 00:06:03;00*

**LOWER THIRD:**  
**JERUSALEM**

**LOWER THIRD:**  
**BEREAVED FAMILIES FORUM**  
**MEETING PLACE**

**Robi (VO):** We're 500 families, 250 Palestinian and 250 Israeli, who are looking for a way to dialogue to prevent further death.

**Robi:** My name is Robi, I live in Tel Aviv.

**Shrabi:** I'm Elham Al Sho'bi, from Nablus. I've four girls and 2 boys, one of which was killed.

**Rami:** I'm Rami Elhanan. I lost my daughter Smadar.

**Robi (VO):** There are many elements in the Parents Circle, but the element of a Palestinian and an Israeli sitting down together and recognizing each other's pain is already a step in the direction of forgiving.

**Ali:** We're here to put all our problems on the table and try and reach mutual understanding.

**Ali:** My name is Ali Abu Awwad. I was in Saudi Arabia when I heard that my brother Youssef had been killed by an Israeli soldier. The soldier stopped him at the entrance to his village and just killed him in cold blood.

**Ali:** For the first time, Palestinians and Israelis are meeting to share their pain. We're meeting about issues that politicians use to justify killing. No! Don't use us as an excuse. We're united.

*TC: 00:08:25:00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**BETHLEHEM  
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ALI ABU AWWAD  
PALESTINIAN**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ALI VISITS HIS NEPHEW WHO WAS  
SHOT BY AN ISRAELI SOLDIER**

**Ali:** Ok, we're here.

**Ali:** Do you want some?

**Nephew:** No, thanks.

**Ali:** How are you doing?

**Ali:** It's healing well.

**Ali (VO):** My brother Youssef was killed when he was 30. I've been shot in the leg by a settler. My mother was imprisoned. I was also in prison for four years.

**Ali:** It'll be alright.

**Ali:** Sometimes I'm faced with questions like: "How can you still do this after all you've been through? You could have great status in your society... You have the right to hate." But I tell them: "I don't have to love Israelis to make peace with them." And I'm not asked to forgive the soldier who killed my brother. I'll never forgive him.

*TC: 00:10:39;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**TEL AVIV**  
**ISRAEL**

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**BEREAVED FAMILIES FORUM VIGIL**

**Israeli Journalist:** What are you calling for today?

**Robi:** To stop the killing. To prevent mothers from suffering because of what's happening now.

**Italian Journalist:** Is there someone from your organization?

**Robi:** Maybe we have someone here who speaks Italian.

**Italian Journalist:** Really?

**Robi:** Hold on. I think it would be better than me.

**Italian Journalist:** It would be better for us, of course.

**Robi:** Where's Aaron? You know Italian, right?

**Aaron:** I don't know Italian, for God's sake.

**Italian Journalist:** Do you speak Italian?

**Aaron:** No, I come from Italy, but we spoke English.

**Robi (VO):** When David was killed, in March, I just went back to work after a week. And all the things that I was doing were so insignificant. Because there was this kind of burning feeling in me that I had to stop this killing.

**Ytzchak:** In the last 24 hours more than 20 Palestinian and Israeli families have become bereaved. If we can prevent a single death by speaking out, this will be worthwhile.

*TC: 00:12:37;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**ISRAELI TV**

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**FOUNDER BEREAVED FAMILIES FORUM**

**Interviewer:** Ytzchak Frankenthal, what we all see in the media is the approval and even delight of the Palestinian parents whose children sacrificed their lives and became martyrs. Is there something you're seeing that we aren't?

**Ytzchak:** You're rightfully asking how parents can justify the awful actions of their children. But perhaps things aren't as simple as that. Perhaps we should ask ourselves, "how did we push the entire population to laud and praise suicide bombers?"

**Interviewer:** What if what's pushing them has nothing to do with us? What if it's some kind of societal or cultural movement within the Arab or Muslim population. Not just here, but in the entire Islamic world. "

TC: 00:13:41;00

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**BETHELHEM**  
**OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**ALI ABU AWWAD**

**Ali:** Let's sit over here.

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**ALI'S NEPHEW**

**Ali:** Were you hit on your leg?

**Ayesh** (*wearing green jacket*): I was injured all over. Do you see this scar over here?

**Yousef and Samir:** It was a missile.

**Samir** (*wearing stripped turtleneck sweater*): It was a missile fired against a crowded civilian building.

**Ali:** And you?

**Samir:** I was shot on both my legs and the bullets were poisonous...

**Ali:** And you Yousef?

**Yousef** (*wearing blue sweater*): I was hit by a tank missile. I had forty operations but I had to cut the leg off.

**Samir:** Look, we are civilians, we were not armed, and they still shot at us. Why us?

**Ali:** An Israeli could ask the same question. He would say: my 10-year-old son was also a civilian; why was he killed?

**Yousef:** You think Jews are interested in peace?

**Ali:** I believe some of them are.

**Yousef:** No, no, no...

**Ali:** I'm not talking about the army or the settlers.

**Yousef:** My friend, every Jew joins the army.

**Yousef:** My brother came here on vacations and was killed. And you want to talk to me about peace? There's no such thing as peace.

*TC: 00:15:34:00*

**Ali:** Hello.  
Were you also injured?

**Jalil** (*new young man arriving*): Yes.

**Ali:** We're talking about peace

**Jalil:** We're a people who welcome peace.

**Yousef:** What welcome peace?

**Jalil:** We welcome peace.

**Yousef:** What welcome peace?

**Ali:** Wait, let him speak.

**Jalil:** If we could establish a state within the 1967 borders...

**Yousef:** What are you talking about? Jalil, even that state we can never have. Wake up! With Jews there's no peace.

**Jalil:** But the Jews are the People of the Book, "We shall not differentiate between the 'People of the Book.'"

**Yousef:** That's too much! You're talking complete nonsense now! (*walking out of the table*)

**Jalil:** But that's what the Holy Book says.

**Yousef** (*returning to the table*): I just want to get some sleep. Don't feed me this holy book nonsense.

**Jalil:** All I'm saying is the Koran says we shouldn't differentiate between the "People of the Book."

**Yousef:** Yes.

**Jalil:** Our God says that in the Koran.

**Yousef:** Yes.

**Jalil:** Jews have their holy book and we have the Koran, correct?

**Yousef:** Yes.

**Jalil:** Christians also have their book, what's it called again? The Bible.

**Yousef:** Correct. Just tell me what you're getting at.

**Jalil:** I'm saying God create the Jews.

**Yousef:** Did he create Jews in Palestine?

**Samir:** This is like Al Jazeera's show "Opposite Direction."

**Ali:** That's good.

**Yousef:** Personally, I don't believe in Jews in Palestine.

*TC: 00:17:06;00*

**Ali:** Have you heard about India's non-violent movement?

**Ali:** Did it liberate India, or not?

**Yousef:** It did.

**Ali:** Why don't we act like the Indian people?

**Yousef:** You want me to stand still, with no food or drink, just waiting for the Jews to come and kill me?

**Ali:** For 56 years we've been talking about slaughtering the Jews and we've only gone backwards.

For once let's try changing our tactics. Maybe it will work.

**Young boy:** We don't want peace. We, Arabs, don't want peace. We must have resistance and war.

**Ali:** I don't differ from you. I'm resisting too. I have to resist. But the form of my resistance is different.

Because think about it -- a just cause like ours is now being called terrorism. We've never been terrorists. But today you must convince the world that you are not.

*TC: 00:18:17;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**OLD CITY**  
**JERUSALEM**

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**SAMI AL JUNDI**  
**PALESTINIAN**

**Sami:** Having fun sliding on the stairs? Ok, slide, then.

**Sami:** We're entering the Jewish Quarter. This is where I was born, the Jewish Quarter.

**Sami (VO):** After the war of 1967, most of the Palestinians who lived here left the Jewish Quarter. And many of them were kicked out and had their homes demolished. My family was among them and we left, too.

*TC: 00:20:02;00*

**Sami:** Yes. But be aware I have visitors with me.

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**SAMI'S MOTHER HOUSE**

**Mother:** You know, last night I dreamt I was greeting people. By God, I'm serious.

**Sami:** I took them to the Jewish Quarter.

**Mother:** Nice.

**Sami:** And to where we used to live.

**Mother:** Did you remember where?

**Sami:** Yes, by the mosque.

**Mother:** When my husband said, let's go to Amman, I told him I'd rather die under the feet of the Jews than leave the Old City. We'd stay here, not matter what.

**Sami:** My mother wanted to stay and my father eventually agreed.

**Mother:** Eventually he had to give in and do as I wanted.

**Mother:** Sami knows what happened.

**Sami:** I was with two friends... and they were preparing explosives, and then... I didn't know how to make such things.

**Mother:** They were all young, around 16 years old.

**Sami:** What's important is that the explosives went off prematurely and I was there with them.

**Mother:** Sami was outside getting a hair cut.

**Sami:** No, I was inside with them. I got injured and had to go to the hospital. And while I was in the hospital, the Israeli Security Services came and...took me to prison.

**Sami** (*getting up from sofa and pointing at picture*): This is a picture of me in prison in 1982. My mom is talking about something that happened 24 years ago. 24 years ago. It's not recent. That's history.

*TC: 00:22:14;00*

**Sami (VO):** The prison sentence: 10 years. So I decided the best way to get through my prison sentence was by reading books. When you read a book, your world widens. Every book I read, I learned something new and my thoughts changed a little. I read a lot about by Nelson Mandela and also by his wife, how they dealt with the humiliation from whites. Mandela realized he could achieve more through love than through violence.

*TC: 00:23:15;00*

**LOWER THIRD:**

**AFTER PRISON, SAMI STARTS BRINGING TOGETHER PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI YOUTH**

**Sami:** Does everyone have a partner? Shake each other's hands. Let me see.

**Sami:** Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Bader Shah Khan all initiated non-violent movements and they were right to do so. There are aspects of their movement that suit us and some that don't. We should adopt what suit us and come up with new ideas for what doesn't. I may not be a great thinker like each of them, but I do have a brain. I can think

for myself. All of us are able to come up with ideas that are better and more effective than war and violence, which only cause more victims to both sides.

*TC: 01:24:32;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**TEL AVIV  
1996**

**News anchorman (VO):** The place: Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv. The time: 4 in the afternoon. Students were celebrating the Purim holiday.

**Tzvika (VO):** My daughter Bat Chen went with three friends to Tel Aviv to celebrate her birthday and Purim.

*LOWER THIRD:*

**TZVIKA SHAHAK  
ISRAELI WAR VETERAN**

**Tzvika:** My wife Ayelet called me and said, “there was a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv.” I said, “Okay. I heard. I’m in the middle of work.” She said, “but our daughter Bat-Chen is in Tel Aviv.” I said “Okay, there are more than a million people in Tel Aviv.” She said “I’m worried.”

*TC: 00:25:38;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**TZVIKA’S WIFE  
1996**

**Tzvika’s wife:** What do you know about the casualties? We’re looking for three young girls.

**Nurse:** We have no information.

**Tzvika’s wife:** One is wounded here but we haven’t heard from the other three.

**Tzvika’s wife:** From Telmond.

**Tzvika (VO):** We decided to go to the morgue to rule out the possibility that she was there.

**Tzvika:** After 45 minutes they said, “Listen, we need you to identify someone.” I said “Ok, no problem.” I went in alone. I said, “Ok, that’s Bat-Chen, that’s my daughter. Are you sure she is dead?” They said yes. I gave her a kiss on the forehead and said goodbye.

**Tzvika (VO):** I feel sorry for the terrorist who killed my daughter. Someone “drugged” his brain, somebody fed him all kinds of ideas, propaganda. They forced nonsense into his head.

**Tzvika:** I think that we, Israelis, need to take care of all these drug dealers.

*TC: 00:27:35;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**BETHLEHEM**  
**2003**

**George:** On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2003, there were many clashes going on in Bethlehem.

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**GEORGE AND NAJWA SA'ADEH**  
**PALESTINIANS**

**George:** On that day, at around 6:30, I was driving with my wife and daughters to the supermarket. When we got to here...we saw three Israeli military jeeps parked on the side of the road. When we passed by the first jeep...they opened fire on us. About 18 bullets hit the gate right here. They also hit the gate inside. And my 12-year-old daughter Christine was killed in the shooting.

**Funeral chanting:** The voice of Christine is calling us, the voice of Christine is calling us: “don’t forget me my friends, don’t forget me my friends.” In the name of the Bible and the Koran, in the name of the Bible and the Koran. In the name of the Bible and the Koran.

*TC: 00:30:03;00*

**George (VO):** Of course I kept asking the soldiers, “why are you shooting at us? We are only civilians.” We found out that the Israeli army was looking for three wanted men. And the car I was driving was the same as the wanted Palestinians’ car.

**George:** And now my daughter, we know that you are in the company of other martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the pure soil of Palestine. From this city, I send a message to all Israeli mothers: if you want security, end the occupation. We all stand together until we have freedom and a Palestinian state.

**George (VO):** There are martyrs for religion and there are martyrs for the nation. Any child who is assassinated is considered a martyr.

*TC: 00:31:51;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**JERUSALEM**

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**BEREAVED FAMILIES FORUM  
MEETING PLACE**

**George:** I'm the headmaster for all parts.

**Tzvika:** But there is a teacher that is in charge?

**George:** Yes, I have assistants. I deal with children all the time.

**Tzvika:** From what age to what age?

**George:** From three years old up to high school.

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**ONE YEAR AFTER THEIR DAUGHTERS' DEATHS  
TZVIKA AND GEORGE JOIN THE FORUM**

**George:** A member of the Bereaved Forum contacted us to ask if we were interested in meeting Israeli families. At first, I thought it was a strange idea. But after thinking logically about it, I didn't see any reason not to meet them and let them know of our suffering.

**Tzvika:** There were many things that touched me. We see that there are Palestinians who suffered a lot, who lost children, and still believe in the peace process and in reconciliation. If we who lost what is most precious can talk to each other, and look forward to a better future, then everyone else must do so, too.

*TC: 00:33:52;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**HIGH SCHOOL  
HOLON, ISRAEL**

**Security Guard:** Are you carrying any weapons?

**Tzvika:** No.

**Security Guard:** Ok, show me your ID, please.

**Tzvika** (*inside classroom*): Yes. Yariv?

**Yariv** (*student front row*): You lost your daughter, right? And I'm sure you loved her more than anything. If this ever happened to me, I wouldn't get near someone who belongs to the people that killed my daughter. Or who killed my mother, father, or whatever.

**Tzvika:** I understand what you're saying -- it's a natural response. But I hope you'll also see my point of view as normal.

We've tried all other options: we've occupied, we've won, and still there is no peace.

**Leor** (*student back row*): Do you have sons?

**Tzvika:** I've an 18-year-old-son, who's supposed to join the army in February. I think serving in the army is important because the war for our country isn't over yet. We have to stay strong but also continue the dialogue. I want to tell you that the French, Germans, and English hated one another and made each far more miserable than we and the Palestinians make each other. And today they live in peace, without borders. Why can't it happen here, too? I'm saying it will. Believe me it will... Whether you like it or not.

**Tzvika:** When I was their age, I used to think we should fight and kill all Arabs. I didn't think there was another way. So I want to open up another way for them because it's important for them and for us. And maybe these teenagers, who are about to enter the army, will treat Palestinians humanely. And maybe this will prevent the creation of the next suicide bomber who would've caused more casualties on our side, which would in turn create more casualties on their side, and so on... Maybe.

*TC: 00:36:58;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**TEL AVIV**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**WINDOWS OFFICE**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**WINDOWS PRODUCES A JOINT PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI YOUTH  
MAGAZINE**

*LOWER THIRD :*

**RUTIE ATSMON  
ISRAELI DIRECTOR**

**Rutie:** Because we're a joint organization we've decided that we're gonna do everything we can to have the yearly assembly of the organization together. We planned to do it in a village near Tulkarem, very close to the checkpoint, so Israelis who're afraid to enter the Territories will not have to walk more than two blocks to get to the place, and Palestinians from different places could come.

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**WINDOWS MEETING PLACE  
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**AZIZ TANJI  
PALESTINIAN COORDINATOR, WINDOWS**

**Aziz:** We're waiting for the Israelis to arrive. There's a lot to discuss. We're a joint organization working for the people, no matter if they are Israelis and Palestinians. We're working for peace, but the Israeli government is obstructing our activities. They've denied me a permit to enter Israel for over a year. Why? Do they think I am a terrorist? Do I look like a terrorist to you? Why then?

*TC: 00:38:34;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**TULKAREM CHECKPOINT  
9:35 AM**

**Rutie:** Azizi, Israelis are not allowed to enter to Irtah. There's a new order by the army and there is a big sign here saying so. You suggest that we try first Baka?

**Aziz:** First go to Jbara because it's easier, you know, it's 3 km.

**Rutie:** Okay, so we're going to Jbara now.

**Aziz:** Please, my friend. Bye bye.

**Aziz:** They didn't let them in. We've got another problem now.

**Aziz (VO):** People are already gathering here you see? And I'm afraid the Israelis won't pass through the next checkpoint. If they don't come, no one here will ever come to another meeting. They'll lose trust. Believe me, it's a problem.

**Rutie (VO):** One of the things that we try to explain to the Palestinians is the very deep built-in fear of Israelis, or Jews in general because of our history, We invite people to come to Palestinian villages with us to overcome the fear of coping with what you see there, of what we do as Israelis to the Palestinians. And overcoming the fear, the very basic fear that we have to do those things because otherwise Israel will not survive.

*TC: 00:40:21;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**MEETING PLACE**  
**12:35 PM**

**Aziz:** Hello?

**Ruti:** Azizi?

**Aziz:** Yes, talk.

**Rutie:** There is a suggestion that we go from Anabta to Deir al-Ghussun so we'll try to hold the meeting in Deir al-Ghussun or in Atil.

**Aziz:** My friend, we decided a month ago to go to Irtah and we prepared everything in Irtah now.

**Rutie:** To Irtah?

**Aziz:** Yes.

**Rutie:** But then we have to go through Tulkarem we don't want to go through the town.

**Aziz:** Now you are in the Palestinian Authority. In Deir al-Ghussun or here, it is the same. What is the problem, just to pass through Tulkarem?

**Rutie:** Can we do that, from Anabta to Deir al-Ghussun?

**Aziz:** My friend, do you know how many people are waiting here in Irtah? We're not a game to move us from here to here or here.

**Rutie:** Yes, I know. But...

**Aziz:** Look, my friend. It depends on you to convince them to enter from Tulkarem. Tell them that all the roads are empty, that it's not dangerous and not to be afraid. Now, I can't do anything else, that's it.

**Rutie:** Aziz, alo, Aziz...

**Aziz:** Shoot. I'm not a game, my friend. They asked us to move to Deir al-Ghussun. For what I'll move to Deir al-Ghussun? We're all of us human beings. That's it. I told her: "I will not go there. Forget all the meeting."

*TC: 00:41:59;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**DEIR AL-GHUSSUN  
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

**Rutie:** He's waiting for us in Irath with more than 30 people.

**Israeli Woman:** And we can't get there?

**Rutie:** To get there we have to pass through Tulkarem. We can do it, but we need to decide that we're ready to do it.

*Phone Rings*

**Aziz:** You talk to her. I'm through with her. I'm too frustrated.

**Rutie:** Aziz...Azizi?

**Rutie:** Who? Okay. Tell Aziz we're going to Irtah with Palestinian cars.

*TC: 00:42:55;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**MEETING PLACE  
2:10 PM**

**Aziz:** Finally you arrive.

**Israeli man:** We had to go round and round -- Baka Igabia, Baka Ishakia.

**Aziz:** But in the end, you arrived my friend.

**Israeli man:** Yes, yes.

**Palestinian man:** Very nice to meet you.

**Rutie:** Me too.

**Palestinian man:** I've been looking so hard for an Israeli who seeks peace, who wants to live together.

**Rutie:** There are many, they're just afraid to come.

**Palestinian man:** Yes, but they get lost in the shuffle.

**Rutie:** So now you can see we are here.

**Rutie:** This is all the people that we have?

**Aziz:** Yes, and many of them they left. After you made me miserable they left.

**Ruti:** But I told you: "wait, let's talk and try to find a solution." I knew that if we continued to talk for a few minutes we'd find a solution. So you see, five minutes afterwards we found a solution.

*TC: 00:43:44;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**BEREAVED FAMILIES FORUM**  
**ISRAELI OFFICE**

**Ali:** We came up with a solution to the conflict.

**Robi:** What is it?

**Ali:** Every Israeli or Palestinian who wants to smoke has to buy cigarettes from the other side.

**Robi:** Wow. You're onto something.

**Ali:** There'd be peace in a day.

**Robi:** Yes.

**Ali:** Robi, would you do a radio interview for a station in Hebron?

**Robi:** In Hebron?

**Ali:** Yes.

**Robi:** In Hebrew or English?

**Ali:** In English?

**Robi:** Why not?

**Robi (VO):** Part of the work of the Forum is to explain the situation. The media is a side-taking process, but that doesn't serve any purpose. There is no pro-Palestinian, pro-Israeli. There is pro-solution.

*TC: 00:44:53;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**ISRAELI TV**

**Interviewer:** Good evening. We're with Robi Damelin, the mother of David who was killed at an army checkpoint next to the Ofra settlement in March 2002. Shortly after the event, the sniper became a folk hero in the Territories.

**Robi:** I'm not focusing on this...

**Interviewer:** Robi, I really want to understand this. You don't have anger towards the sniper?

**Robi:** I've thought a lot about this. When I heard that David was killed my first instinct was to say, you cannot kill anybody in the name of David. What I'm focusing on is: why was David in the Occupied Territories? Why was David guarding settlers who said their safety was more important than David's life?

**Interviewer:** The sniper fled unharmed. He has yet to be caught.

*TC: 00:46:20;00*

**Robi (VO):** All my life I've worked for projects that had to do with reconciliation and coexistence. From early childhood in South Africa I was fighting the apartheid system. All my family was involved. My uncle was Mandela's lawyer. So I suppose it runs in the family.

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ROBI AND OTHER BEREAVED PARENTS JOIN A SETTLER-LED TOUR OF AN ISRAELI SETTLEMENT.**

**Guide:** We'll be entering the Gaza Strip. Does everyone have a map?

**Guide:** The first question we're always asked is: "what are you looking for in Gaza?" Just as we have the right to every other place in Israel, we have a historical and national right to this strip.

But you'll say, "it's full of Arabs." Look, I won't pretend there aren't a few Arabs in the region.

**Robi:** I think I'm going to have a problem with this.

**Guide:** We're a lone island of Jews in the heart of a hostile Arab world. And whoever thinks they will accept us here should think twice.

*TC: 00:47:43;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ISRAELI SETTLEMENT  
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

**Robi:** In many cases it's easier for me to talk to Palestinians than it is for me to relate to people who live in the Occupied Territories, settlers. But there's something wrong with that. That's not an honest approach to reconciliation.

**Teacher:** We find ourselves in a place that belongs to us. It is ours by Divine promise. What the Arabs got here is far more than they ever got in the Middle East at any point in time.

**Robi:** This sounds like South Africa.

**Teacher:** Excuse me?

**Robi:** It's exactly what whites said about the living standard of blacks.

**Teacher:** I'm not talking about them.

**Robi:** But it sounds like it.

**Boaz** (*man sitting next to Robi*): It's the same thing. So what?

**Robi:** Same words the whites used about the blacks.

**Robi** (*turning to Boaz*): Sorry I don't have to take this.

*TC: 00:49:06:00*

**Settler woman:** We built this place over many years. We've been here for 29 or 30 years. And we've done so much here. Can we just get up and leave as if this never existed? And start all over again? How much money would it take for you to unearth your son's grave? My son is buried over there.

**Robi:** My name is Robi Damelin. I lost my son at a checkpoint by the Ofrah settlement. I think I'm very Zionist. Maybe as Zionist as you. You may think that reconciliation sounds really eccentric, but it isn't. It works.

*TC: 00:49:59:00*

**LOWER THIRD :**  
**HEBRON**  
**OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

**LOWER THIRD:**  
**ALI ABU AWWAD**  
**PALESTINIAN**

**Ali:** This is where we're going – the Ibda'a Center.

**Director Ibda'a:** I'm sorry, I've been very busy today and I must go to Ramallah.

**Ali:** I'm from the Forum of Bereaved Palestinian and Israeli families working for peace. I have a question: as a member of the Forum, I'm trying to reach out to the people in Hebron. What problems do you think I'll face? Do you think I can succeed in Hebron despite the settler situation?

**Director Ibda'a:** You'll have problems. People might refuse to talk to you. You know there are many Arab organizations that fight against any kind of normal relationship with Israelis.

**Ali:** Our motto is non-violence. That's our politics.

**Director Ibda'a:** But is your forum normalizing relations with Israelis before a solution to the conflict is reached?

**Ali** (*inside car*): People are not very free to say what they think. That's another big problem. For example, any meeting with Israelis calling for non-violence is immediately labeled as "normalization." This refers to someone who sells his principles, who gives in to his enemies and killers. So he's accused of normalization.

*TC: 00:52:38;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**HEBRON**

**Ali (VO):** When I decided to bring the Forum to Hebron there were many problems. The conflict in Hebron is where settlers have taken some homes. We're talking about 140,000 Palestinians suffering because of 400 settlers.

**Hebronite man:** Welcome.

**Ali:** My name is Ali Abu Awad.  
How are you able to live with the settlers?

**Hebronite man:** This situation was imposed on us. If everyone leaves, it would all be left to the settlers. Which is what they are hoping for. Why do you think they harass us?

**Hebronite woman:** Look at this. The window glass was completely broken. Look, the clay is new and not dry yet. A settler came with a bat and broke all the windows. But no matter how much misery my family has to endure, I'll still hold on to my home.

**Ali:** I tell you there are Israelis, different from the settlers you see here, who want you to stay in your home. And they tell the media that Palestinians should get their state so that we can build lasting peace.

**Ali** (*inside car*): I could be considered a hero by my people given what I've been through... I was shot, imprisoned, my brother was killed. All of this gives me credibility in my society, since I've suffered. I could be spreading hate and that would be justified. But this is no longer a personal issue for me, it's a collective one.

*TC: 00:55:18;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY CENTER**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**FORMER ISRAELI SOLDIER WHO REFUSES ARMY SERVICE**

**Former Israeli soldier:** Like most Israelis at the age of 18, I was drafted to the Israeli army. And then slowly I started to think about living the army. Most Israeli soldiers will get out of the Israeli army by using the psychiatrist, or using some kind of fake or real health problem. And some will do the other way, which is how I did it, which is by going to prison many times.

**Palestinian woman:** You said that Israelis join the army because of great ideals. How can Palestinians contribute to breaking these ideals.

**Former Israeli soldier:** I think one good thing is non-violence, which might not be the preferred tactic for most people and might even not be the right tactic at every time, but it is the tactic that allow people to see other people as more human.

And I think people like Ali, who's a good friend of mine, strengthened that for me because when somebody says, "well, what can you do? I go through checkpoints everyday, my brother was killed, my father was killed..." I say have a friend who's been through the same thing and I understand that it's very painful and it hurts a lot. And I've heard his story and I've heard other stories. And he's my light because he shows me there is another way for people to be. And I wish that you saw it too, because it would give you light like my friend Ali has. So this has been my blessing.

**Palestinian man:** You are speaking about the Palestinian non-violence and the way it helps your work inside the Israeli community. How do you see the Palestinian non-violence and the movements inside the Palestinian society of non-violence helping out in the cause of the Palestinian so-called freedom?

**Former Israeli soldier:** I think this is more of an internal Palestinian question because, I think, I understand the injustice and I understand the need to resist it. I think the way to resist is up for Palestinians to decide. And me as an Israeli I can tell you what the effect is on my society, or what I can understand is the effect. The other thing you can do is reach out, like my friend Ali is doing. His brother was killed...

**Ali:** Stop talking about me, please.

**Former Israeli soldier:** He does a lot of bad things which I'll tell you about later...

**Ali (inside car):** I'm ready to talk to anybody, whether the person believes in peace or not. If anyone opposes me, whether among my people, among Israelis, or anywhere in the world, I'm ready to have an open and clear dialogue with that person. I've never talked to a settler. But I'm ready to talk with them, some of them, one of them, all of them. I'm ready to talk with them.

TC: 00:58:45;00

*LOWE THIRD:*  
**ISRAELI SETTLEMENT  
WEST BANK**

*LOWE THIRD:*  
**SHLOMO ZAGMAN  
ISRAELI**

**Shlomo:** From here one can see the strategic importance of the area. It's a high area. It controls the low lands.

**Shlomo (VO):** I lived here from the age of five. Until a year-and-a-half ago I lived here. I grew up in an area where the people are right-wing. I'm talking about the way we saw the Arabs who lived nearby. For me, they were figures who would do work for us.

**Shlomo:** I saw them as laborers, cleaners, janitors...The Arabs did the work that my parents wouldn't do.

**Shlomo (VO):** My first political party was Moledet, which supports the deportation of Arabs. Two-and-a-half years ago I met a religious man who was a leftist. For the first time I started to see things differently.

**Shlomo** (*standing in front of settlement*): The bottom line of my new outlook is that the price we are paying today to hold on to the Occupied Territories is so high that it's endangering the existence of the Zionist Jewish state in Israel.

**Shlomo (VO):** I met a group of young religious men who felt like me and we founded the Movement for Realistic Religious Zionism. We put out a petition calling on settlers to recognize the need for Israel to leave part of the Occupied Territories.

**Shlomo** (*standing in front of settlement*): Some people in my settlement got offended. They took it as a slap in the face. As though I'm saying that I opened my eyes, that I can see things that I hadn't seen before, and that they're still blind and need to wisen up.

TC: 01:02:04;00

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**AFTER 23 YEARS OF LIVING AS A SETTLER IN THE OCCUPIED  
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**SHLOMO AND HIS FAMILY DECIDE TO MOVE INTO ISRAEL**

*Baby crying.*

**Shlomo** (*sitting at home*): Tahir, cuco. Cuco, Tahir. Where are you? Where are you? Show us your face Tahir...Don't be shy. You're not shy, are you?

**Shlomo** (**standing in the balcony**): The move is hard. Here the relationships between people are colder, different. I'm not used to it yet.

**Shlomo** (**VO**): I don't foresee peace in the near future. It can't happen while people on the other side don't recognize my right to be here, and say they're entitled to live here at my expense.

In light of the situation, I need to have some form of security. History and the current situation show that we can't give up such safeguards at this stage. And then we'll see.

*TC: 01:03:52;00*

**Robi**: I've seen the wall but I've never seen this section of it and this is such a terrible section because it's a built up village. Just consider if a kid who lives over here needs go to school over there. How can he do that? Is not exactly a wall you can jump over.

*TC: 01:04:41;00*

**Shlomo**: I'm ashamed to say that I didn't. I never had a meaningful conversation with a Palestinian. Not debates, not real talks, not connections.

**Ali**: There are many Israelis, and I say this to Palestinians, who don't know about the true nature of the Palestinian people, about their lives.

**Ruti**: So the Israeli public is not aware of a Palestinian peace camp, and the Palestinian society is hardly aware of an Israeli peace camp. And this is part of the things that keep the whole cycle of violence going, because people on both sides don't have hope. People are desperate: "There is no one to talk to on the other side." Well, there is, and we know.

*TC: 01:05:37;00*

LOWER THIRD:  
**SHLOMO ZAGMAN**  
**FORMER SETTLER**

*LOWER THIRD:*  
**ONE YEAR AFTER HIS INTERVIEW, SHLOMO DECIDES TO MEET A PALESTINIAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE.**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ALI AGREES TO MEET HIM**

**Shlomo:** First of all, I want to hear a little bit about your personally -- what have you been through, what brought you here.

**Ali:** I was involved in the first Palestinian uprising, the Intifada, at age 16. I threw a ton of stones, I was very active in the first Intifada. I grew up in a political household. My mother was in jail. My brother was in jail. Another brother was also in jail.

**Shlomo:** For what?

**Ali:** For participation...

**Shlomo:** Participation in what?

**Ali:** In the struggle against occupation.

**Shlomo:** And they didn't put you in jail for throwing stones and the like?

**Ali:** Yes, I was put in jail for four years.

**Shlomo:** You were in jail?

**Ali:** Yes. Does that surprise you?

**Shlomo:** No, no.

**Ali:** How does that make you feel?

**Shlomo:** I was living in the Alon Shvut settlement during the first Intifada.

**Ali:** OK

**Shlomo:** Maybe you threw stones at me... just kidding. I was lucky that I only had stones thrown at me twice.

**Ali:** In a private car or in an army vehicle?

**Shlomo:** On a bus.

**Ali:** No, I never stoned private cars or buses.

*TC: 01:07:34;00*

**Ali:** To be Palestinian and to work for peace. Not just believe in it, but to work for peace, you have to be like a mountain. Why? Say there's a ceasefire. On the Israeli side, there are no problems at all, since there are no suicide bombers. The suicide bombers cause the greatest damage to the Israeli people, right? But aside from that, what is there? Not much harm.

Now, on our side, there is a ceasefire, right? But the army is still there. The checkpoints are there. We endure a kind of existence...

**Shlomo:** I feel, and I think I have more in common with settlers than you. And when I speak to them, I can't convince, they don't understand what I'm saying. I think it would only be possible if I'd seat and start from the smallest things. Stop talking about ideals and big dreams, and history and background, and, you know, three thousand years. It's such a heavy thing, you know? I'm carrying all the Jewish people on my back. I'm protecting all the Jewish people and all the history and all we've been through. How can I give up anything now after all we've been through?  
I don't really believe I can change the view of a settler or a right-wing person...

**Ali:** You didn't give up. You just started.

**Shlomo:** You're right.

*TC: 01:09:33;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ISRAELI CHECKPOINT  
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

**Shlomo:** For so many years I passed through checkpoints and never stopped to see what was going on.

*LOWER THIRD:*

**AFTER TALKING WITH ALI, SHLOMO  
ACCOMPANIES A GROUP OF ISRAELI WOMEN  
WHO MONITOR CHECKPOINTS**

**Shlomo:** Hang on. This checkpoint is totally inside the Occupied Territories, right? Now, what's over there?

**Woman:** Nabatia and Bethlehem.

**Shlomo:** And over here?

**Woman:** Sawahra, an Arab village.

**Shlomo:** Is that part of Jerusalem?

**Woman:** No.

**Shlomo:** So why can't Palestinians pass through?

**Woman:** Good question

**Shlomo:** No, I want to understand.

**Woman:** "Security."

**Shlomo** (*inside car*): People on the Left and the Right see it all clearly. Everything is obvious to them. They have slogans, which they write on stickers and place on cars. But if, like me, your position is a full page, how can you make it fit in a sticker? Who will read it?"

*TC: 01:10:57;00*

**Robi (VO):** I'm kind of faced with another dilemma in my life. It's really kind of a test.

**Robi** (*sitting on sofa*): A few days ago the army phoned me that they caught the sniper who killed David. And he's in jail.

This is like having to face a demon in a way because I have to see if I'm really honest about what I'm saying.

If I went to see him...I mean, he's going to be in jail for the rest of his life. But maybe if I could plant in him the seed of reconciliation and of him looking at an alternative to the killing, and he would make a statement to that effect...Because he's such a folk hero then maybe it'd make a difference to people who were following him; and maybe they will start to look at the world the same way as he, if he would go through some kind of transformation.

And if I'm honest, that's what I'm talking about all the time.

When I think about it, it almost makes me feel sick, you know, physically sick.

*TC: 01:12:55;00*

**LOWER THIRD:**  
**PEACE RALLY**  
**TEL AVIV**

**Robi (VO):** This for me is one of the most difficult letters I'll ever have to right. My name is Robi Damelin and I'm the mother of David who was killed by your son. After your son was captured I spent many sleepless nights thinking about what to do. Should I ignore the whole thing, or will I be true to my integrity and to the work that I'm doing, and to try to find a way for closure and reconciliation? This is not easy for anyone, and I'm just an ordinary person and not a saint. I do not know what your reaction will be, it is a risk for me. But I believe you'll understand as it comes from the most honest part of me. I hope that you will show the letter to your son and that maybe in the future we can meet.

*TC: 01:14:35;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ROBI'S LETTER WAS RECEIVED BY THE FAMILY OF THE MAN WHO KILLED HER SON**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**THEY ARE DECIDING HOW BEST TO RESPOND**

**Sami:** Hello. This is Sami from Seeds of Peace.

*LOWER THIRD:*

**SEEDS OF PEACE CLOSED ITS JERUSALEM CENTER WHERE SAMI WORKED TO BRING PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI YOUTH TOGETHER**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**SAMI PLANS TO START HIS OWN COEXISTENCE PROGRAM IN JERUSALEM**

*TC: 01:15:37;00*

**Shlomo:** What's happening here? So people go around the fence? They aren't even checked!

**Woman:** They're not checked at all. It's a fiction.

*LOWER THIRD:*

**SHLOMO CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE CONFLICT**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**HE HAS SINCE LEFT HIS CORPORATE JOB TO WORK IN THE FIELD OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE**

*TC: 01:16:08;00*

**Yousef:** Do you believe that Israel can be your neighbor?

**Ali:** It must be.

**Yousef:** No way! Do you believe in this according to Sharia law?

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ALI INVITED YOUSEF TO JOIN THE FORUM AND MEET WITH BEREAVED ISRAELI FAMILIES**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**YOUSEF AGREED**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ALL SETTLERS FROM GAZA HAVE BEEN EVACUATED BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES.**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**SETTLEMENTS IN EAST JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK CONTINUE TO EXPAND.**

*TC: 01:16:58;00*

*LOWER THIRD:*

**AZIZ WAS DETAINED BY ISRAELI SECURITY SERVICES AFTER A SUICIDE BOMBER FROM HIS AREA BLEW UP A TEL AVIV NIGHTCLUB**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**HE WAS HELD FOR WEEKS WITHOUT CHARGE AND SUBJECTED TO DEGRADING TREATMENT**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**RUTI WORKED TIRELESSLY TO HAVE HIM FREED**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**THE MILITARY JUDGE FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO HOLD AZIZ AND  
RELEASED HIM**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**WINDOWS HAS SINCE OPENED A CENTER NEAR THE TULKAREM  
REFUGEE CAMP**

TC: 01:18:11;00

*LOWER THIRD:*

**GEORGE HAS BEEN ELECTED DEPUTY MAYOR OF BETHLEHEM.**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**HE CONTINUES TO BE PART OF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES FORUM**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**TZVIKA FOUND HIS LATE DAUGHTER'S DIARIES FILLED WITH POEMS  
ABOUT PEACE, WHICH HE PUBLISHED IN HEBREW AND ARABIC**

*LOWER THIRD:*

**HE AND HIS WIFE CREATED A FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE PEACE AND  
TOLERANCE THROUGH EDUCATION**

TC: 01:19:07;00

**Ali:** We're talking politics but we still managed to find the place. Usually, the one who talks politics is either a drunken politician, a desperate citizen, or an optimistic person.

**Voice:** Which one are you?

**Ali:** Maybe all of them. Mahmoud Darwish says, "Besiege your siege with madness." Sometimes you have to be a bit crazy to keep on living. Let's go?

*LOWER THIRD:*

**ALI CONTINUES TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE OF NON-VIOLENT  
RESISTANCE.**

TC: 01:20:00;00

*TITLE OVER BLACK:*

**THIS FILM IS DEDICATE TO THE THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS AND  
ISRAELIS COMMITTED TO  
NON-VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF ENDING THE CONFLICT AND BUILDING  
PEACE**

*TITLES OVER BLACK:*

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