

# MEDIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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## *Occupation 101*

[TRANSCRIPT]

**Text on Screen:** “The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance... It is the illusion of knowledge” - Stephen Hawking

**Amira Hass:** Any violence by a large population is not because these people are more violent than any other. Its an alarm, its a sign, its a signal that something is wrong in the treatment of this population.

**Music:** *Where is the outcry! Where is the voice of the day! Where is the voice of the people!*

**Malcolm X:** They attack all of us for the same reasons. All of us catch hell from the same enemy. We're all in the same bag... the same boat. We suffer political oppression, economic exploitation, and social degradation. All of them from the same enemy.

**Nelson Mandela:** It is useless and point futile for us to continue talking peace and non-violence against a government whose reply is only savage attacks on an unarmed and defenseless people.

**Voiceover:** This year will be a year of violence. This year cometh... the keynote is violence and the slogan is attack! I am minded of young David... I am minded of young David the Shepherd boy. Who stood up before the great warrior of the Philistines. Young David having all the courage! There must be someone

somewhere... There's got to be somebody somewhere that cares. Young David took that one small stone and the faith of his God... and slayed the giant Goliath!

**Title Screen:** Occupation 101

**Reporter:** A Pathe dispatcher shows the scene in Jerusalem as Jewish and Arab mobs clashed in the center of the city. It remains to be seen whether a threatened full-scale war will materialize.

**Al Jazeera Reporter (in Arabic):** Soldiers take over homes and snipers don't hesitate to shoot at anything that moves in front of them, which includes journalists as well.

**Narrator:** As a journalist the more you look into the issue of Israel and Palestine, the more you sense that something is not quite right. The images and the narration are out of synch, a little like a foreign film that has been awkwardly dubbed.

**Al Jazeera Reporter (in Arabic):** Damaged homes and roads destroyed -- and only skeletal remains of cars. Even food and medicine are ever scarce.

**Narrator:** As you look into it for yourself, you begin to suspect that there is something extremely odd going on. The more you look into it, the more you begin to feel it is not just odd, it is deeply disturbing. Our media portray Mid-East violence as though it's an inherent part of the culture and region, implying that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an ancient problem with little hope of solution.

**Al Jazeera Reporter (in Arabic):** Israeli soldiers reign destruction in all areas of the West Bank. The "City of Peace" is under siege and the Church of Nativity is under fire by heavy military artillery. Hundreds of citizens are stuck inside the church without any food or medicine.

**Narrator:** These misperceptions come from the fact that we're only hearing a fraction of the story. You are about to witness images and testimony, largely hidden from mainstream America.

## **Ch. 2**

**Kathleen Kamphoefner:** This place draws many people, whether they're Jewish, Muslim or Christian. This is a holy place to significant numbers of us, in the world, we all have an interest in sort of seeing what is this land, and what's the situation here. And, once you come, if you open your eyes at all, you can't miss the problems and the patterns that are here.

**Allegra Pacheco:** I think it's hard to understand what occupation is. I think it's a foreign concept for many Americans, what it's like to live under military occupation.

**Phyllis Bennis:** The definition of an occupation is when a foreign army occupies your land physically and controls your life.

**Allegra Pacheco:** In addition, Palestinians under occupation – and this why there's so much struggle against the occupation – they're not citizens, they don't have rights, they don't have civil rights. They're under a military rule.

**Phyllis Bennis:** This is a particular kind of occupation that's both military and settler occupation.

**Bishop Allen Bartlett, Jr.:** Settlements are areas of Palestinian land which are selected, and whatever is there, whether it's roads, or whether it's villages, or homes, they are bulldozed, and then a new town is built on the hilltop.

**Kathleen Kamphoefner:** One very good friend is Rodina Jabber. She and her husband Ata have landed in a rural valley near here called the Ba'a. And it's pretty clear these settlements want this land. It's some of the best agricultural land around here. So that valley has had repeated home demolitions. Rodina, herself, has lived through two home demolitions. They are living now in their third house.

**Rodina (in Arabic):** A bulldozer arrived with soldiers; I was totally shocked and began to argue with them not to demolish my home, so they began to beat me and pull my hair. As the bulldozer was to begin the demolition, I remembered that my son was sleeping inside. So I ran towards the house to get him; as I ran, the soldiers tried to hold me back. They began beating and kicking me and pulled my hair. I managed to push one to the ground and ran inside to my son and carried him out like this.

**Narrator:** Rodina and her children were once again homeless, and had to endure living in a tent for many months. Her husband, Ata was even imprisoned for protesting the destruction of their home.

**Rodina (In Arabic):** As I was cooking for my children, I noticed that one of my daughters had tied a rope to a tree and around her neck to attempt to hang herself. I asked her "What are you doing?" She said, "How can we live outside in the sun like this?" I don't want to live, I'd rather die." It was a miserable time for us. Imagine a mother seeing her own child trying to kill herself. Their mental condition is awful! They don't even sleep at night; they ask "Mommy! What is that? Check if it's the army!..." 3 days ago... the army came at night and my children began screaming from all directions, and the soldiers are yelling for my ID in the middle of the dark. I tell them not to be fearful and try to calm and console them but I'm even more afraid than they are.

**Jeff Halper:** Here you have Palestinians that have no input whatsoever in the policies that are made. They're not on the City Council. They're not in any of the decision-making bodies on the West Bank or Gaza. They're certainly not in the government. The policies are made in order to ensure Israeli control. So the law is designed in a way, in a very cynical way, to prevent Palestinians from building, and to keep them confined in little islands, so that most of the land of the occupied territories is free for Israeli settlement.

**Richard Falk:** These are armed settlements, about 190 of them, spread all over the West Bank.

**Narrator:** Settlements are strategically built colonies of Israel that are connected by a network of roads, which separate each Palestinian community from the next and confine their ability to expand. They are often constructed around the best farmland and water resources.

**Phyllis Bennis:** They are surrounded by barbwire. They are armed inside. Settler residents are required to be armed, by the Israeli military. And they are defended from the outside, by the Israeli military itself.

**Allegra Pacheco:** The purpose of these settlements today, number one, is to continue the Israeli control and domination of the occupied territories.

**Jeff Halper:** And the bottom in all of this is to make Palestinians leave the country. It's a very hard term, I know, but in a sense it's a kind of ethnic cleansing.

### Ch. 3

**Yael Stien:** The Israeli government and the Israeli army is not dealing with people as equal. I mean, I think that that's the main problem, that Palestinians are not considered, or not perceived as, equals, to Israelis.

**Douglas Dicks:** There is no specific discrimination against Palestinian Christians, as opposed to Palestinian Muslims – it's a shared suffering.

**Father Drew Christiansen:** Christians see themselves very much a part of the Palestinian national movement. They identify with the Palestinian people as being their people.

**Douglas Dicks:** Palestinian Christians have difficulty getting to churches on Sunday morning, if they wanted to come to Jerusalem, because they don't have that permission, or that legal right, according to the Israeli government, to come to Jerusalem, for worship.

**Thomas Getman:** This, I picked up in a home of a wonderful Christian family in Beit Jala. And this is the kind of armor-piercing weaponry that's being used against civilians, innocent civilians.

**Beit Jala Woman:** It's not easy to tell everything you know. It's easy to say some words, but you can't tell how do you feel. As everybody, I want my children to be happy, to live their right life as children. We just think about one thing: Where can I put my children while they are shooting? They didn't want to go to school, because they are scared to come back and there is no house. They doesn't want to go without me and their father, because they think that they will lose us. What about these children, why they are going to the streets. They don't think "let's go to swim" because I'm sure they have no right to swim now. Why? Because we are Palestinian... Thanks God. I don't imagine that there is a woman, in all of the world,

can send her child, or her man, just go to die. Do You think we are working all of this life to give them something, and to let them die in a minute, can you?

**Thomas Getman:** The suffering, the persecution of Christians, they've been robbed of their heritage. They've been robbed of their ancestral lands. They've been robbed of their culture.

**Dr. Baker:** Some of the first converts to the teachings of Jesus were Palestinians. So that's how long Christians have been in that land. Their quarter, the Christian Quarter, has been really, really decimated, and taken over and sliced up.

**Bishop Allen Bartlett, Jr.:** That has really bled the Christian community to where they're less than two percent of the population now.

**Dr. Baker:** The presence of a Christian community within the holy land—can you imagine, where Jesus first stepped foot—will no longer be there.

#### **Ch. 4**

**Adam Keller:** I know, both from the moral sense and from the practical sense, that the only way to stop the violence is to treat the root cause from which the violence has started.

**Title Screen:** Root Cause of the Conflict

**Douglas Dicks:** The number one myth that Westerners have about this conflict, is that Arabs and Jews have been fighting for thousands of years and they're going to continue to fight.

**James Akins:** This is really quite bizarre because all it takes is a little bit of reading of history to find out that this just isn't true. There is no congenital, historical enmity between the Arabs and the Jews. The Jews flourished in the Arab world, at a time when they were being persecuted throughout all of Europe.

**Rashid Khalidi:** At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, because of anti-Semitism in Europe, European Jews began to try and figure out a solution to the Jewish problem. A very small minority adhered to Zionism: The idea that the only place in which they could be safe is within a Jewish state.

**Douglas Dicks:** Zionist Jews actually had a design on the land of Palestine, the idea of creating a homeland for Jews in the land of Palestine. And this is really the beginning of the conflict.

**Ilan Pappé:** The mainstream Israeli-Jewish society believe, because that's the way they had been educated, that Palestine was empty, had been empty, when the Jewish settlers came there.

**Phyllis Bennis:** Who paid the price when they settled there? Is it really true that Israel was "a land without a people, for a people without a land?"

**James Akins:** Palestine was not empty. It was a land populated by Arabs, who had a high level of culture, a high level of education.

**Phyllis Bennis:** With farms, and markets, and towns and villages, and roads and commerce, and lots of interaction with the rest of the world.

**James Akins:** The population was overwhelmingly, overwhelmingly Arab.



**Text on Screen:** Population Distribution in 1878, Total= 462,465, Muslim & Christian Arabs = 96.8%, Jews = 3.2% // 1882-1914 Immigration of 65,000 European Jews.

**Narrator:** Jewish immigration increased, under British rule, following World War I, when Britain implemented the Balfour Declaration, promising a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This measure conflicted with Britain's previous promise of self-rule for Arab inhabitants throughout the region.

**Rashid Khalidi:** Britain was basically extremely supportive of the Zionist movement. It helped to establish all of the structures of a state. At the same time, the Arabs of Palestine were denied the right of self-determination.

**Text on Screen:** Population Distribution 1922, Total= 757,182, Muslim & Christian Arabs = 87.6%, Jews = 11%

**Narrator:** The Palestinians saw a European power decide the future of a non-European territory, in flat disregard of both their presence and wishes. In the 1920s, as land was being stripped away from local residents, the first clashes between Palestinians and Jews began, and would continue on for years to come.

**Text on Screen:** 1920-1931, 108,825 additional Jewish immigrants arrive. Population Distribution 1931, Total = 1,035,154. Muslim & Christian Arabs = 81.6%, Jews = 16.9%

**Narrator:** Until the early 1930s, the Jewish population of Palestine remained under 17 percent. Hitler's rise to power in Germany completely changed that. In just five years, 174,000 Jews flooded into Palestine, doubling their population.

**Text on Screen:** 1937-1945, 119,800 additional Jewish immigrants arrive.

**Narrator:** As the world attempted to make amends for the horrors of Nazi genocidal policies, efforts to make Palestine a Jewish homeland increased.

**Phyllis Bennis:** The Palestinians -- they were not the Nazis. They were not responsible for the Holocaust. But they were the ones who paid the price.

**Narrator:** In 1947, with the conflict spiraling out of control, Britain decided to turn the problem of Palestine over to the United Nations. The UN, under pressure, proposed to divide the land into two states: an Arab state, and a Jewish state. Arabs were to be given 43 percent of the land, despite the fact that they made up more than two-thirds of the population, and owned over 92 percent of the land. Jews were to be given 56 percent, although they comprised only one-third of the population, and owned less than eight percent of the total area.

**Rashid Khalidi:** Nevertheless, they were given, not only most of the land, they were given the most fertile land.

**Narrator:** Zionist leaders took advantage of their superior military preparation and immediately began occupying major Arab cities in Palestine.

**Hava Keller:** I was among the people that conquered Acre. We were walking around. We entered the flat. There was a pair of shoes of a small child, maybe two years old. They didn't have time to put on the shoes, so they left the shoes and they run away. They left everything.

**Ilan Pappé:** We found out that there was a systematic expulsion of Palestinians, and there was, as I said, there was an ethnic cleansing operation taking place.

**Narrator:** The most infamous campaign was the massacre at the village of Deir Yassin, where over 100 men, women and children were systematically murdered.

**[Old Woman-In Arabic]:** Me, my children, and my brother were hiding in this house. My brother spent the night in order to keep us company. They threw bombs at our home and my children and I got wounded. When things calmed down, the Jews broke the door down and took us out. They started to beat up my brother Musa severely. I gave a soldier some money so that he wouldn't kill Musa. He took the money and said you are kind-hearted, I will show you what I will do to your brother; he threw him to the ground and my brother fell down like this. The soldier then pointed his gun to Musa's head and shot him five times.

**Text on Screen:** The majority of her family members and relatives were killed. Which include her two sons and one stepson, her father and mother, her two brothers, her grandparents, her uncle and aunt and their children.

**Narrator:** The ruthlessness of the attack on Deir Yassin drove fear and panic into the Palestinian population, and led to the flight of unarmed civilians from their homes, all over the country.

**Rashid Khalidi:** As a result, maybe three hundred-or-so-thousand Palestinians had already been expelled before the first Arab soldier entered Palestine.

**Narrator:** Some of the neighboring Arab armies finally intervened after May 15, 1948, when Israel officially announced its statehood.

**Ilan Pappé:** Although there was a lot of war rhetoric on the Arab side, very few soldiers, Arab soldiers, were sent into the battlefield. And actually, for most part of the war, there was superiority on the side of the Israeli army.

**Text on Screen:** Arab Soldiers Totaled: 68,000 / Jewish Soldiers Totaled 90,000.

**Noam Chomsky:** The Israeli army cleansed much of the territory and took over a large part of the designated Palestinian state.

**Narrator:** The new state of Israel encompassed 78 percent of the total land of Palestine. The West Bank came under Jordanian control, and the Gaza Strip under Egyptian dominion. Although a truce was declared between Israel and the Arab states, true peace remained elusive, as over 700,000 Palestinian refugees languished in nearby camps, often in sight of homes to which they still held the deeds and a deep desire to return.

**Ilan Pappé:** Most of the deserted and evicted Palestinian villages were erased from upon the earth and were either turned into Jew settlements or into fertile land.

**Rashid Khalidi:** Of the five hundred Palestinian villages, in what became Israel in 1948, four hundred were destroyed.

**Narrator:** These efforts to destroy the possibility of their returning home were countered by the United Nations, which continues to affirm their human right, enshrined in international law and morality, to return.

**Phyllis Bennis:** A Palestinian who had lost her land, or lost his land, as the result of the creation of Israel in 1948, cannot come back even for a visit. I can go back to Israel as if I were returning and claim immediate citizenship, having no historic tie, speaking no Hebrew, knowing no one in the country, having no family who ever was there; all that one needs is... being Jewish, a religious group, like any other.

## Ch. 5

**Jewish Man:** I am from Al-Quds (Jerusalem) I'm a witness. I know the Arabs, the Arabs are very good... no problem until the Zionist movement start. My grandmother tell me before the Zionist movement start they baby sitting each others kids. They borrow both from each other like brothers. The idea of Zionism you take away the land from the Palestinians, from the Arabs, started all the fighting. Not Arabs the problem, not Jews the problem, not Judaism, not Muslim, only Zionism.

**Narrator:** The events of 1948 were a defining moment for the Middle East, and, from that point onward, created instability throughout the region. Violent tensions continued and led to another war in 1967. In that war, Israel occupied the remainder of historic Palestine, what is known today as the West Bank and Gaza.

**James Akins:** Another myth was that Israel was about to be pushed into the sea. But I was working in the State Department at that time. There was no question of Israel being pushed into the sea. The question was just the rapidity of the totalness of Israeli victory, and the victory was crushing.

**Narrator:** During the 1967 war, Israel displaced more than 400,000 Palestinians, half of whom were 1948 refugees, displaced for a second time, in less than two decades.

## **Ch. 6**

**Narrator:** It became clear that the world was not going to address their plight. Palestinians in Israel lived as third class citizens of a state whose core identity excluded them, while those in the newly occupied territories and abroad continued as dispossessed refugees. The United Nations passed resolution after resolution, affirming their rights. Leaders of surrounding Arab nations verbally championed their cause but failed to take action. Finally, Palestinians took matters into their

own hands. There was a mass uprising, in Arabic an “Intifada” “shaking off”, as people throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip rebelled. The Israeli government adopted a strategy, in the words of Defense Minister Itzak Rabin of “might, power and beating”, which became known as the “Break the Bones Strategy”. Thousands of Palestinians were rounded up and imprisoned; since 1967 over 400,000. Many were held without any charges whatsoever, under harsh conditions, where physical abuse and torture were rampant.

**Text on Screen:** During the First Intifada (Uprising) Dec. 1987 to Dec. 1993: Palestinians civilians killed = 1,100. 250 of them were minors. Jewish civilians killed= 114. 5 of them were minors. B’tselem (Israeli Human Rights Group). By the end of 1993, the first intifada began to wind down. For the next seven years the Palestinians entered into a peace process with Israel.

## Ch. 7

**Bill Clinton (archival):** Today, we bear witness to an extraordinary act... In one of history’s defining dramas.

**Chomsky:** The Oslo process begins officially with the handshake on the white house lawn.

**Amira Hass:** I think the main misconception is the years of Oslo where years of peace.

**Phyllis Bennis:** And, in that period, when there was supposed to be a peace process underway, in fact, the daily lives of Palestinians, throughout the occupied territories, got worse and worse and worse.

**Amira Hass:** The reality—and I saw it with my own eyes—that this was a new form of Israeli domination over Palestinians.

**Roger Normand:** Economic and social rights, which are rights to health, education, work, et cetera, these areas are the areas that declined the worst for the majority of Palestinians, almost all Palestinians.

**Allegra Pacheco:** All the economic indicators turned for the worse under Oslo, during this peace process.

**Rashid Khalidi:** Moreover, Israeli settlements have continued to expand throughout that period.

**Text on Screen:** Israeli Settlements doubled in size and population. The number of Jewish settlers increased from 200,000 to 400,000.

**Narrator:** At the same time that Israeli control was expanding, the Palestinian authority was given the trappings of power over the shrinking and noncontiguous Palestinian land being held out as a future Palestinian state.

**Phyllis Bennis:** The challenges of governing, for the Palestine authority, are extraordinarily complex. This is an authority that has very little authority. It has virtually no power. Its power is derivative. It has the power that is given to it by Israel. And, at any moment, any of those powers can be taken away.

**Amira Hass:** It was very convenient to believe that there is no occupation, that the occupation is over. How many aspects in your life somebody else determines for you? This is occupation. And Israel could determine, in the last ten years, could determine everything. But everybody heard Arafat saying ten times, a hundred times, that Ramallah is liberated and Gaza is liberated. How can it be liberated if

there is an army around it? The Palestinian officials spoke very warmly about the situation, about the reality, and they were hiding the fact, that for the great majority of the population, these years were a disaster.

**Rashid Khalidi:** Those abuses, those violations of the public trust had been happening regularly, since the Oslo process began.

**Amira Hass:** Palestinians who would protest against Oslo were labeled as terrorists. The authority would not allow it – the P.A.

**Rashid Khalidi:** Instead of having a real national authority, you had this corrupt institution whose main task, as far as Israel was concerned, was to police the Palestinians and prevent them from resisting the continuing occupation.

**Richard Falk:** It has wasted a lot of the money the international community has given it. One sees the villas of leading Palestinian officials and the poverty with which the Palestinian masses are living in.

**Rashid Khalidi:** The performance of the PLO in running the Palestinian authority and its failures in negotiating with Israel, have very much diminished support for the PLO leadership.

**Text on Screen:** In January 2006, elections were held and the Palestinians voted the PLO led government out of office, giving Hamas the required seats to form a majority government.

## **Ch. 8**

**Narrator:** While Americans were being told by the media that a peace process was moving forward, Israel continued its policy of home demolitions. Since 1967, about



12,000 Palestinian homes have been demolished. More than 700 of those homes were demolished during the Oslo peace process.

**Edward Walker:** What you've got to have...and I think it's a fair demand on the part of Palestinians, that, during the process of negotiation you're not turning over more and more territory to Israeli settlers and changing the character of the land that you're supposed to be negotiating about.

**Phyllis Bennis:** The notion that this is going to be a negotiable question does not ring true to any Palestinian who lives up against one of these settlements; which are continually expanding. And what does it mean to expand? It means you steal more land.

**Narrator:** Abdul Jawad is a Palestinian farmer, whose family has lived there and tended the land for centuries. The Israel authorities have confiscated countless acres of their farmland.

**Abdul Jawad (in Arabic):** Look at the beautiful trees that used to be in this area. Basically I had cultivated a garden of heaven on earth. And look instead of this heaven, look what they've done. I wish you could just see what they've done here.

**Text on Screen:** Jewish Settlements

**Abdul Jawad (in Arabic):** Look how the trees continue to grow from underneath the rocks. Isn't this a sin! How can a human being that mentions God do this? This here is our food supply we don't have anything imported from anywhere. And we wait for God's mercy! What else can we do?

**Amira Hass:** These settlers live and prosper at the expense of the Palestinians, and the Palestinians well being – present well-being and future well-being.

**Rabbi Lillian:** And they don't see this horrible, disproportionate allocation of resources where Jewish settlers get water and electricity and gas, garbage pickup, all kinds of things that their Palestinian neighbors don't get, because of the military occupation.

**Abdul Jawad (in Arabic):** That village over there isn't allowed to visit us look do you see anyone outside? Not even one Arab is outside! If this car weren't Israeli it wouldn't be allowed on the road.

**Kathleen Kamphoefner:** They lost the middle of the valley for a bypass road which is now an Israeli-only bypass road. They can't drive on it to go to their homes.

**Noam Chomsky:** The thing is extremely ugly to watch. This is just day-to-day life. I'm not talking about the fighting here. I mean, you walk through Hebron, you've got an Arab city – a hundred thousand Arabs, a couple hundred Jews, and settlers walking around with rifles, looking as if they own the place.

**Yael Stien:** The settlers can go in a Palestinian village and burn the fields there, destroy the house, hit Palestinians, even shoot Palestinians.

**Kathleen Kamphoefner:** Several of the women have been beaten by settlers on different occasions. In each of those cases, we were just being a nonviolent presence on the street, observing when settlers were acting out. And they just attacked different ones of us.

**Hebron man (in Arabic):** From what we've told you, we only mentioned a fraction of what happens.

**Yael Stien:** The Israeli government is not doing anything to try and stop the settlers from violating Palestinian rights. From all the cases that settlers actually killed Palestinians, very few were accused of murder, but then the president came and gave amnesty or shortened the punishment that they received from the court. And, in some cases, they cooperate with them. They guard there. Like one case, the settlers went and took a house, Palestinian house, and just said “well, now it’s ours”, so the border police stood down there to protect them, because the Palestinians were angry; so the border police just stood there and protected the settlers, instead of, of course, arresting them, just saying it’s illegal.

**Jeff Halper:** The bottom line is to make things so difficult for the Palestinians that anybody that wants a future for their children, anybody that wants to get ahead in life, anybody that wants a normal life, will leave.

**Abdul Jawad (in Arabic):** Why would anyone who owns a heaven like this abandon it and leave? Where else would we go?

## **Ch. 9**

**Narrator:** The Jaber family continues to live under constant harassment. Most recently Abdul Jawad broke his leg while trying to protect his grandchildren from settler attacks.

**Jeff Halper:** Many of us feel hostage, that we’re held hostage to the settlers; because I think the vast majority of Israelis don’t care about the occupied territories. But we’re held hostage to the settlers that have enough political power, within the Israeli political system, that they can frustrate any attempt to get them out. And, as long as they’re there, the Palestinians can’t possibly make peace.

**Adam Keller:** There are two kinds of settlers, basically. There are the ideological settlers, who feel that these territories have been promised to the Jewish people by God. And they feel that every place which is mentioned in the bible, they have, not only the right, but the sacred duty to come and to build a modern Jewish settlement; and, if Palestinians who live on that spot have other ideas, then they have the right to break their resistance by force, or to call in the army. And the other kind, which are the more...majority of the settlers, are, in fact, ordinary Israelis who came there simply because the government was offering them very cheap housing. When you go to live there, then most of the money you get is a government loan. And, if you stay there for ten years, then you don't have to pay back the loan.

**Text on Screen:** Only 10% of the West Bank is populated with Jewish settlers, yet they enjoy superior privileges at the expense of the native Palestinian population.

## **Ch. 10**

**Richard Falk:** Well, I think the unpleasant and unavoidable comparison is with South Africa during the apartheid period. And I must say that—having visited South Africa—that they were much better off than the Palestinians living in the refugee camps.

**[Mandela - Excerpt]:** We went to jail because it was impossible to sit still while the obscenity of the apartheid system was being imposed on our people.

## **Ch. 11**

**James Akins:** The United States is seen, quite correctly, as being the sole supporter of Israel, and that Israel would not be able to do what it is doing without American green light.

**Paul Findley:** The US-Israeli relationship is really unique on Capital Hill. In my 22 years that I served there, there was never a moment when there was really a debate about US policy in the Middle East. It was always “what does Israel want?” and almost always Congress gave them exactly what they wanted without any debate, without any amendments being considered. This type policy exists as a result of a number of factors. First of all, there is the lobby—the US lobby—for Israel: AIPAC, American Israeli Public Affairs Committee. It has a multi-million dollar budget. It has a highly professional group of people working on Capitol Hill. They know the legislative process, they know the personalities, and therefore advance what’s best for the state of Israel.

**James Akins:** Congress seems to think that, if you oppose what Israel wants, you’ll be defeated in the next election.

**Text on Screen:** From 1978-2006 Pro-Israeli Political Action Committees have contributed \$43,724,035 to candidates who vote in Congress according to AIPAC’S recommendations.

**Paul Findley:** Another factor is the fundamentalist Christian community. Fundamentalists are often represented by the tele-evangelists that are on TV. They believe that a strong Israel is a part of God’s plan. They believe that the day will come when a battle will occur on the plain of Armageddon in the Middle East; there will be the forces of truth and righteousness on one side, the force of evil on the other side. And, in that struggle, the Christian forces led by the second coming of Jesus Christ, will prevail. All of the Jews will be either destroyed or converted instantly to Christianity. It may sound, to the viewer, as a very far-out notion. But, believe me, it is widely held and supported by millions of Americans, whose doctrines really, in the ultimate, are hostile to the survival of Jews but,

nevertheless, the supporters of Israel see this vast body of American people as being a great asset at this time, so they embrace them.

**Dr. Baker:** And Mr. Robertson who said, “I had a vision from God that we have to support Israel. And no matter what happens, and what they do, this is the will of God because their God’s chosen people.” A couple of weeks later he added, “And that’s when this ministry started really being blessed, when we made that commitment to Israel”—not the commitment to God, or Jesus Christ teachings, but to Israel.

**Pat Robertson (archival):** We have come from all the nations of the earth, to say to the people of Israel were your friends, were with you and we believe that your called by God to posses this land.

**Dr. Baker:** I, as a Christian, and a Christian pastor, object, not in my name, and not in the name of over a hundred and fifteen to a hundred and twenty million Christians, do you dare say that we support injustice and deceit. We do not.

**Richard Falk:** The citizenry of this democratic society is systematically deprived of access to the real facts.

**Narrator:** The American media play a major role in continuing US support for Israel, through leaving out vast swaths of information. It is the classic case of lying through omission. Major statements by American diplomats, senators, military leaders, are going unreported. Sentences are being removed from news stories. Information is being manipulated.

**Paul Findley:** Those are the three factors that work together, on Capitol Hill, and lead to such total bias, such total absence of free speech of open debate, that is, I think, very destructive to our institutions, and to our best interests in world affairs.

## **Ch. 12**

**Jeff Halper:** Israel, for example, does not abide at all by international law. The entire occupation is illegal. It's a violation, in particular, of the Fourth Geneva Convention. By the rules of the Fourth Geneva Convention: you're not allowed to build settlements; you're not allowed to build roads; you're not allowed to appropriate land; you're not allowed to deport people; you're not allowed to restrict their freedom of movement; you're not allowed to harm their economy; you're not allowed to make them unemployed and impoverished.

**Noam Chomsky:** Everything that Israel does in the occupied territories, US taxpayers are paying for. The US gives the financing; it gives the military support.

**Richard Falk:** Israel receives as much foreign economic assistance as all the countries combined in the world...combined in the world.

**Text on Screen:** Total US Aid from 1949-1996: \$62.5 Billion (the Caribbean, Sub Saharan Africa and Latin America. Total US Aid from 1949-1996: \$62.5 Billion (Israel). (Israel) Population 5.8. (The Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America) 1.05 Billion. US Aid Dollars Spent per Person, Israel = \$10,775, The Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America = \$59. Of the total aid the US gives annually, Israel receives one third. There are currently one hundred ninety one independently recognized countries in the world.

**Narrator:** In March 2003, the US government approved ten billion dollars in aid for Israel. At the same time, it withheld a \$3.5 billion grant to upgrade the training of first responders, those who would be first to respond to a terrorist attack. Spent domestically, that ten billion dollars could buy healthcare coverage for over four million children without proper coverage, or pay for one and a half million

American children to attend Head Start Child Development programs to prepare them for school, or simply help states offset the costs of one of the worst fiscal crises in half a century.

**Text on Screen:** From 1949 to 2006 US Aid to Israel amounts to: 108 Billion. That averages \$2 to \$3 billion per year or \$6 - \$8 million per day. Israel is currently the most extensive violator of UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. The United States has used its veto power more than 40 times in the U.N. to defend Israeli violations of International Law.

**Richard Falk:** And one of the reasons that the American commitment to Israel is so strong, that it's not only reflecting the impact of well-organized, pro-Israel lobbies, but it also represents the views of the Pentagon, that sees Israel now as an indispensable strategic ally in the effort to control and exert influence throughout the region.

**Noam Chomsky:** The main concern for the United States, like the world, is the oil producing regions. And, in order to control that, you need a way of doing it.

### **Ch. 13**

**Narrator:** Desperate for a peace that would finally end occupation, Palestinians again came to the negotiating table in 2000.

**Jeff Halper:** People think, look, Israel was very forthcoming, it offered 95 percent of the West Bank of the occupied territories to the Palestinians and they rejected it in violence. The assumption of that 95 percent argument is that, getting 95 percent of the land gives you 95 percent sovereignty, a sovereign country. But I think it's very useful to think in terms of a prison. If you look at a blueprint of a prison, it looks like the prisoners own the place. And the prisoners have 95 percent of the



area. They've got the living areas. They have the exercise yard. They have the cafeteria. They've got the work areas. All the prison authorities have is five percent...is the control.

**Rabbi Arik Ascherman:** The average Palestinian didn't think they were throwing anything away because there was nothing to throw away. They had tuned out what Barak and Arafat were talking about, because, on the ground, there were ongoing land expropriations, tree uprootings, road building, unfair water allocation; leaving many Palestinian families, in the summer and fall, with two hours of running water a week, when next door you have a settlement with a swimming pool and green lawns. So what do you expect people to think?

#### **Ch. 14**

**Phyllis Bennis:** And it was that pressure, that sense of being squeezed, that finally exploded in September of 2000, in what became the Second Intifada.

**Richard Falk:** What is called "the Second Intifada" is essentially a mobilization of resistance against this structure of occupation and oppression. Israel, from the very beginning of these demonstrations, had indeed relied on excessive force. They had used live ammunition against unarmed demonstrators, had inflicted several deaths and hundreds of casualties in the opening days of the Intifada.

**Text on Screen:** In the first 10 days of the uprising alone... The Israeli security forces killed 74 Palestinians and injured nearly 3000.

**Red Crescent Hospital Doctor:** Sometimes the Israelis are speaking about rubber bullets they used. By the way, it's not rubber; it's steel coated with rubber. This bullet it killed many of the kids who are demonstrating and who sometimes while they are throwing stones. As this case, I'll show you what happened... He is a 14-

years-old, from Khan Yunis. He was shot with one like this and it entered here and he died.

**Sharon Burke:** A lot of the deaths have been children and we do have some documentary evidence that security forces are firing on crowds of children.

**Thomas Getman:** The soldiers weren't at risk. They're heavily armored. They have all this high-powered weaponry. And no child with a stone is going to be a risk to them.

#### **Ch. 14**

**Peter Bouckaert:** Most of the Palestinian abuses involve shooting at settlements, ambushes on settler cars, and obviously the suicide bombings inside Israel.

**Yael Stien:** There are some risks to Israeli life. Many Israelis have been killed.

**Rabbi Lillian:** When there was this horrible suicide bombing, at the pizza place in Jerusalem, I went to visit some of the kids who survived that blast, in the hospital. It was horrible. It was horrible to see what happened to these children.

**Amira Hass:** You see the blood, you see the agony of the family. This is what the world sees. But one cannot take it out of the general context. And the context is of an Israeli occupation which is...it seems not to be so brutal, but it's very brutal. It really makes people's lives unbearable.

**Richard Falk:** The use of suicide bombers is an act of desperation. It's the weapons of the weak.

**Hava Keller:** Israel doesn't do it, never, because it has airplanes and helicopters. Why should they send anybody to make suicide?

**Jeff Halper:** I think we have to change our conception of what Israel is. Israel likes to present itself as this little country surrounded by a sea of hostile Arabs, and we just want peace and they're violent. Israel is the fifth largest nuclear power in the world. It's got between two-and-three-hundred nuclear warheads. So the reality is that Israel is a regional super power.

**Phyllis Bennis:** For the first time, the resistance to that occupation had, to a very small extent, an armed component. There was nothing close to equal force.

**Text on Screen:** Israeli Tanks 3930 / Palestinian Tanks 0, Israeli F-16 Jets 362 / Palestinian F-16 Jets 0, The largest fleet in any country in the world behind the United States.

**Richard Falk:** At every stage, they had used grossly excessive force against a completely defenseless civilian population.

**Sharon Burke:** The victims have been overwhelmingly Palestinian civilians...overwhelmingly; not armed groups or armed individuals.

**Text on Screen:** From September 2000 to February 2007: Palestinians killed = 4,009/ Israelis Killed = 1,021 (source: B'tselem). More than 935 children were killed during the current conflict: 816 Palestinian / 119 Israeli.

## **Ch. 16**

**Richard Falk:** Israel has established all of these checkpoints within the West Bank, which require Palestinians to wait hours and hours to go very short distances.

**Douglas Dicks:** Just the freedom of movement, that's something that Palestinians are denied on a daily basis: The access to Jerusalem, the access to healthcare, the access to hospitals, clinics and schools.

**Allegra Pacheco:** We're talking about three million people who've had the freedom of movement totally stopped.

**Sharon Burke:** It's a violation of international law. That the right to freedom of movement is a fundamental right in the Declaration of Human Rights. What you have is young Israeli conscripts who look bored. These guys are sitting out there, and they're watching thousands of Palestinians go by. They have carte blanche, to pull anyone over and harass them, for whatever reason. They can detain them for hours. And it's a dangerous situation.

**Yael Stien:** The main population that are being affected by Israeli policies is the civilian population, those population who is not being involved in any attacks against the Israeli's civilians or the army.

**Allegra Pacheco:** During this time of closure, unfortunately there have been lots of bombings, lots of attacks. The closure is not meant to deter suicide bombings. It's meant to punish and put pressure on three million civilians.

**Yael Stien:** People do not earn anymore, because the majority of the Palestinians used to work in Israel. And the majority of the Palestinian economy was based on the income of people who were working inside Israel. Now they cannot go into Israel, so tens of thousands of families just lose the source of income that they had.

**Text on Screen:** According to World Bank Estimates: Unemployment is now reaching 53% of the Population... 75% of Palestinians live in poverty (less than \$2 a day).

## Ch. 17

**Yael Stien:** The education system is also affected by that. Students cannot go to the university.

**Dr. Albert Aghazarian:** Bir Zeit University was subject to army closures for something like 18 times. The longest closure was during the First Intifada. For five years we could not set foot on campus. During this period we organized what the Israeli army called “cells of illegal education”. We were teaching in apartments, in rented flats, in churches, in mosques, in gardens, in cars. And we kept our infrastructure, even this attempt, to minimize the damage and to keep the university going. They attempted to crush it.

**Bir Zeit Student:** I went to college in the States and I found it very differently. You're biggest, like worry about in the States is if I'm going to pass in class, or, oh, I hope I have a lot of friends. Over here it's totally different. You have to worry, oh, my God, would I be able to get to school, is there going to be a checkpoint, is there going to be a demonstration am I going to get shot at, is there going to be teargas. So, it's like completely different.

**Bir Zeit Student:** And here, it's just like you don't know if you're going to live or you're going to die, you know? It's...you're going to school as if you're going to fight a war. You don't find a tank in the middle of the road on your way to college.

**Bir Zeit Student:** Just the other day there were two tanks and an army Jeep. And they're standing there checking your passport, and, you know, your student visa

and all this stuff. And it's just like, we want to get to school, we want an education we're...we're humans and we have a right to our education.

**Dr. Albert Aghazarian:** In places like the United States people cannot understand what's going on, because simply, the experience is beyond their frame of reference.

**Bir Zeit Student:** I can't study at night because my bedroom light is going to be open and it's across the street from a settlement. They shot at me. I was reading my biology book. I was studying for my mid-term. And my mom and dad are like, "No, get out of the room," because they started shooting. I was like, "No, mom, I want to get an "A" in the class, let me study!" So I'm sitting there and all of the sudden you hear something on my bedroom window. And I was just like, okay, maybe I should go downstairs. I couldn't study for my test. It's like...I tell my American friends, "Do you understand what I'm going through?"

**Dr. Albert Aghazarian:** The amazing thing is not that you have cases of suicide in students. The amazing thing is the bulk of them, they try to carry on in the middle of this mess, as if life is normal, as if they want to celebrate their graduation, and they want to build their life, and they want to carry on. That's the other part of the coin. The root problem here is occupation. Everything else emanates from there.

**Yael Stien:** The most severe problem is people who need medical care.

**Sharon Burke:** We've documented numerous cases, cases where people have died. In fact, I believe that one of the last cases we documented was a woman who was in labor, who was not allowed to get to the hospital, and she and the baby both died.

**Yael Stien:** If people like that, people who are really sick and really need to go to hospital cannot do that, so I think you can imagine what happen to regular people

that just want to go to work, just want to go to do some shopping, or even just visit friends.

**Richard Falk:** It's like living in a prison, a gigantic prison.

## **Ch. 18**

**Allegra Pacheco:** Haaretz, the intellectual newspaper in Israel, ran a whole four-page magazine article on the refugee issue. It had a picture of Tel Aviv University, now, and what was there before Tel Aviv University, a Palestinian village. And those refugees are in Gaza.

**Hebron Old man:** Gaza is one place that's seen hell. No lie...I swear Gaza is even worse than what we've experienced! Gaza is much worse!

**Yael Stien:** I think that Gaza is a main problem. There are lots of violations that you will not see in the West Bank, you will see in Gaza. We find it hard to monitor the human rights situation in Gaza because the Israel army do not let us in.

**Narrator:** Palestinians in Gaza had been under Israeli military control for over 38 years, where 1.3 million Palestinians were crowded together, to make room for 8,000 Israeli settlers. In August of 2005, Israel dismantled its settlements and military posts inside Gaza and relocated its settlers. The media, along with Israel politicians portrayed this as an unprecedented sacrifice. In reality, it was simply a matter of Israel finally complying with international law.

**Text on Screen:** The evacuation of settlers from Gaza constituted only 2% of the entire Israeli settler population. Each illegal settler was promised an estimated \$227,700 to relocate...a total cost of \$2.2 billion – an expense Israel has asked the United States to pay for.

**Narrator:** Although Israel's presence inside Gaza is no longer visible; Israel will still retain ultimate control over Gaza's borders, coastal waters and air space, creating a virtual prison.

**Richard Falk:** The refugee camps, even if there was no conflict with Israel, are just humanly horrible. They're so overcrowded...and you have 14-to-25 people living in a space. There's no place for children to be... there are no streets—they're little alleys—no trees, nothing.

**Text on Screen:** Many generations of Palestinians have grown up and continue to live in refugee camps throughout the region. In 1948, they numbered over 750,000. Today those who continue to live in refugee camps number 4,255,120.

**Gaza Boy:** Could you live here? Could you? You couldn't because the conditions are horrible and you'd be terrified whenever the missiles strike and the walls begin to crack!

**Leila in Gaza:** The shelling struck the window everything broke and got burnt. Why did they break my things? And break my toys? I lost a lot of my stuff, we threw it all in the garbage, we also got rid of our clothes, we beg from our neighbors for clothing to wear. The food we eat smells like gas, we don't want to get rid of our clothes even though they smell like gas. Only if you'd smell our clothing! Let the Israelis come and smell our clothes and see our home. Whenever we take a shower or do anything at home. The smell of gas suffocates us to death! Come and look at my clothes, smell them...its gas. What can I do? I didn't even get to enjoy the sunglasses that my dad gave me, even the bracelets and necklace that my mom gave me. I didn't even get to enjoy my rings. How am I supposed to enjoy all of my belongings? How? Enjoy our things with what?



**Gaza Women:** Our children can't even live, we don't even know how to live, we live in constant fear. We live in fear and terror!

**Leila in Gaza:** On my way to school I hear gunshots. I get so scared from the shooting. I begin to tremble all over.

**Thomas Getman:** This is what has been fired on this neighborhood. This is a civilian neighborhood. There are no soldiers here. There are no military installations here. This is strictly harassment, to get these people to move away from the border, so that the Israeli tanks can move at will. They want these people cleansed from this area. It's that simple. And it's a way to get people to be humiliated and destitute again.

**Yael Stien:** In Gaza you can see also the extent of house demolitions, much more extensive than in the West Bank. Whole neighborhoods have been demolished. Hundreds of people do not have any houses anymore, because they are next to settlements or next to the border—which is, of course, a clear violation of humanitarian law.

**Thomas Getman:** People have no chance to get their personal items out. They have no chance to call for help. And this is far away from most media outlets. You are amongst the very few journalists who have even seen this...European or American journalists, who have even been here—because people are afraid to come or it's too hard to come.

**Richard Falk:** One of the things we were told in Gaza by a very respected Palestinian psychologist who had just completed a study of a thousand Palestinian children, was that they had discovered that many of these Palestinian children no longer had a will to live, that they were so dehumanized and so affected by seeing

their fathers particularly beaten by Israeli defense forces, that the psychological condition is one of the dimensions of the conflict that is not widely understood.

**Narrator:** Palestinians called for an international observer force that would stop the violence, but this action was blocked by Israel. Finally, a group of Palestinian and Israeli human rights activists, together, created the International Solidarity Movement, which has brought people from around the world, of all ages and backgrounds, to provide a nonviolent, international presence, to try to fill this need. Rachel Corrie a 23-year-old American student, went to Gaza to join in these efforts, sending back e-mails to her parents:

**Cindy Corrie Reading:** “I have been in Palestine for two weeks and one hour now, and I still have very few words to describe what I see. It is most difficult for me to think about what’s going on here, when I sit down to write back to the United States, something about the virtual portal into luxury. I don’t know if many of the children here have every existed without tank shell holes in their walls, and the towers of an occupying army surveying them constantly from the near horizons. I think, although I’m not entirely sure, that even the smallest of these children understand that life is not like this everywhere.”

**Cindy Corrie:** It was Sunday afternoon in Charlotte, about noon, actually, and I received a phone call. And my son-in-law, Kelly, was on the phone. And he asked if Craig was there. And something about the way that he asked made me realize—I felt right away that something was wrong. And then I asked, “Why, Kelly?” And he hesitated for a minute and he said, “We’ve had some very sad news.” And then my daughter, Sara, I could hear her in the background and she got on the telephone and she said, “Mom, it’s Rachel.” And, I think the first words out of my mouth then were, “Is she dead?”

**Joe Carr:** We were opposing the demolition of farmland and other property, Palestinian property, by Israeli destruction force bulldozers. And a bulldozer drove up, and it kept going, and she tried to move back, but she couldn't move back, and she got caught underneath. She got caught underneath the bulldozer. Many other internationals began to surround the bulldozer and yell at it, and tell it that there is somebody there and it did not stop.

**Craig Corrie:** Where Rachel was killed, she was protecting a doctor's home. And that's important to realize, and three children and his wife. She knew that family and that doctor felt that Rachel was like a daughter to him. He bought that house, it was in the middle of a neighborhood. There were other rows of houses between his house and the border. Those other homes, those other streets, were all destroyed and now it was his turn. And I've had people say, well, she was in a war zone. And somebody points out, that war zone is people's neighborhoods. Those are children.

**Rachel Corrie (5<sup>th</sup> grade speech archive):** I'm here for other children. I'm here because I care. I'm here because children everywhere are suffering, and because 40,000 people die each day from hunger. I'm here because those people are mostly children. We have got to understand that the poor are all around us and we are ignoring them. We have got to understand that these deaths are preventable. We have got to understand that people in third world countries think and care, and smile, and cry just like us. We have got to understand that they are us; we are them. My dream is to stop hunger by the year 2000. My dream is to give the poor a chance. My dream is to save the 40,000 people who die each day. My dream can, and will come true, if we all look into the future, and see the light that shines there.

**Text on Screen:** Rachel Corrie died at the age of 23. The U.S. Congress has refused her parents' request to conduct an independent investigation into her murder.

## **Ch. 20**

**Narrator:** As Israel completed its withdrawal from Gaza, the following day it issued orders to confiscate additional Palestinian land from the West Bank, and continue the construction of a separation wall. This wall is twice the height of the Berlin Wall, and four times longer. It rips through villages, severing travel for work, healthcare and education, separating farmers from their lands, and families from loved ones. An Israeli study revealed that the barriers route was chosen in order to confiscate land intended for illegal settlement expansion, not for security reasons.

**Rabbi Lerner:** Here you have this huge wall being constructed, right in the middle of the West Bank. How can anybody believe that there is going to be the creation of a real state? It's a symbol and a reality of oppression.

**Illan Pappé:** Anybody outside of Israel, who supports a two-state solution, has to be very careful, because, what they mean in a two-state solution is that 90 percent of historical Palestine will be Israel. In the rest 10 percent, you'll have two huge prison camps: one in the Gaza Strip and one in the West Bank.

**Text on Screen:** There are currently over 420,000 Israeli settlers living inside the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Over the coming years, Israel intends to expand that number by the thousands. Maj. General Ya'ir Naveh, head of Israel's West Bank occupation forces: "We have no intention of intention of leaving Judea and Samaria [West Bank]. We will remain here in one way or another for hundreds and thousands of years." \*Foundation Middle East Peace Settlement Report Nov-Dec 2005

## **Ch. 21**

**Illan Pappé:** The people who fought in the war were also the people who wrote the history books of the war. And they already had the story that they made up about what had really happened. And that story was integrated in the Israeli education system. It was integrated in the media, in the political discourse.

**Rabbi Lillian:** Some of us who work as Jewish educators have been admitting, over the last maybe ten years, that it is propaganda.

**Jeff Halper:** Israelis don't understand what's going on. They don't know the occupation.

**Gila Svirsky:** We began to educate ourselves. And the first thing we did was invite women, Palestinian women, to come into our homes and talk to us, and tell us what exactly was the problem, as they saw it. And, little-by-little, we learned about their lives. We learned about the suffering they encountered on a daily basis. We learned about the killing going on there, about the lives that were completely circumscribed by an occupation that they had no control over.

**Rabbi Arik Ascherman:** I'm one of the few Israelis not in uniform and not a settler that has been in the territories in the last nine months. You see that the army was actually waging a very cruel war.

**Kathleen Kamphoefner:** On the Israeli side there seems to be no understanding that this how you create terrorism. If you are so repressive on a people, you give them the sense of having no options, and that's a very dangerous place.

**Peter Bouckaert:** In fact, there's a very clear correlation between the kind of human rights abuses that Israel commits in the West Bank and Gaza, and the Palestinian militant response to those abuses.

**Text on Screen:** A report that examined the background of 87 suicide attackers concluded: “Suicide bombers often experience personal trauma related to the Israeli forces prior to their volunteering, such as the death or injury of a family member.”

Source: ‘Suicide Bombers: A Statistical Analysis’ by Sean Yom and Basel Saleh

**Peretz Kidron:** Most Israelis have very clear views, this is a very political country. And, when you talk to somebody, you can argue all night, and you can go red in the face, or blue in the face, or whatever color – you won’t get anywhere. But, when somebody says “I refuse to do this. This is wrong, for me, for us, for our country. This is immoral and I’ll go to prison rather than do it.” And one guys does it, five guys, then 50, then a hundred. And people say, “Hey. What’s going on here? These aren’t cowards. These aren’t traitors...” Most of them are officers, by the way. “...So, if these guys are refusing, there must be something wrong here.”

**Text on Screen:** Currently...1674 Israeli Soldiers currently refuse to serve the occupation. At least 323 have been imprisoned for objecting.

**Thomas Getman:** Nobody can argue with what I’ve seen. I mean they may not like how I say it. Or, they may not like all the facts that I convey. It may sound like I’m imbalanced. But the fact is, when you’re dealing with oppression, there is no balance.

**Richard Falk:** Even someone with a 20 percent open mind, would reach the same conclusions that our commission reached. You could be pro-Israel, and still, if you saw these realities, you’d have to have a completely closed mind not to come to the same conclusions that we reached.

**Peretz Kidron:** So, the violence begins with the occupation. The opposition is resistance to the occupation. Resistance to violence is legitimate in any country in

the world. I may disagree with some of the acts of resistance. I think some of the tactics are stupid.

## **Ch. 22**

**Rashid Khalidi:** Attacks on Israeli civilians are stupid, immoral and counterproductive. They should be stopped.

**Dr. Sarraj:** We should not use violence whatsoever, because it really destroys our intentions and it destroys our position, which is in the higher moral standing. We are the victims. And the world should now understand that we are the victims.

**Allegra Pacheco:** Criticizing the Israeli government policy for assassinating people, or for shooting children, and maiming them, for thousands of children, that's not anti-Semitic; that's humane.

**Thomas Getman:** We have to tell the truth about what's going on, and say, as clearly as we can, "if you keep going down this path, you're going to destroy yourselves. No enemy will have to destroy you. You're rotting from within, because of the methods you're using against innocent people."

**Doug Hostetter:** I don't think, even with the best video that you can make, Americans will really understand what it is like to be a Palestinian under occupation. I guarantee you, if you spend one week in Gaza, or in the West Bank, you will understand it, in a very profound way.

**Hava Keller:** All the wars of independence, you can start, if you want, with the war of independence of the United States. They said "no taxation without representation". And we demand taxation from the Palestinians, and don't give

them any representation, it is the same all over the world. And nobody wants to be under somebody's occupation.

### **Ch. 23**

**Neta Golan:** As an Israeli, we go to India, and to, you know, to South America, to meet the Native American Indians. We're looking for these, like, you know, indigenous people with some kind of more, more rooted wisdom, you know, and they're right here. They're right here, right under our noses. Nobody ever comes here. You know, I mean, for me, the "Falaheen" ... It's like, you know, everything that people go looking for, you know, people with deep, deep roots, really connected to the earth, with this romance with their land. You know, and just incredibly wise and open-hearted, and simple, beautiful. And Israelis never see them, unless it's through, you know, a target. I wish that people knew, what was really going on here. And I wish that people could see these people through my eyes. You know, that's what often I'm looking at people, and they're so incredibly beautiful. And I'm just thinking, I wish that Israelis could, for one minute, see them through my eyes.

### **Ch. 24**

#### **Rachel Corrie's Final Thoughts (emailed to her mother prior to her death):**

*"No amount of reading, attendance at conferences, documentary viewing and word of mouth could have prepared me for the reality of the situation here. You just can't imagine it unless you see it. This is not at all what I asked for when I came into this world. This is not at all what the people here asked for when they came into this world. This is not the world you and Dad wanted me to come into when you decided to have me. This has to stop. I think it is a good idea for us all to drop everything and devote our lives to making this stop."*



**Text on Screen:** Peace and stability in the Holy Land...serves the interests of the entire world. This film is dedicated to the pursuit of peace and justice for all innocent victims of conflict and tribulations throughout the globe.

## **Ch. 25**

**Paul Findley:** The real battle, for justice in the Middle East has to be fought in one here in America.

**Phyllis Bennis:** This is an American issue, because this is an issue of American foreign policy.

**Allegra Pacheco:** Israelis are talking about this, and I think it's time for Americans to realize; that they're the only ones not talking about it. It's actually very dangerous for their own interest, and for the interest of Israeli Jews here.

**Noam Chomsky:** I mean, we're not going to be tossed in jail. We're not going to be tortured. You know, we're not facing what people in the occupied territories are facing. And if we decide we don't want to do it, fine. But then, try to look yourself in the mirror and say "I'm a murderer."

**Bishop Allen Bartlett, Jr.:** It's really high time for Americans to step up to the plate, to do whatever we can, encourage our government to take a strong initiative to end the occupation.

**Peretz Kidron:** Those who really care about the interests of Israel should exert all the pressure possible in order to force Israel to stop the aggression, stop the repression, end the occupation.

**Gila Svirsky:** And the just solution has to be ending the occupation. Ending the occupation is Step Number One.

**Rabbi Ascherman:** Justice is the best way of bringing about security and peace.

**Thomas Getman:** There'll be no security for Israel, as long as this kind of oppression continues.

[END]