



JUST VISION PRESENTS

BUDRUS

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



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

Variety

SYNOPSIS



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

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

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

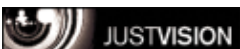
encouraged hundreds of Israelis to cross into Palestinian territory for the first time and join this nonviolent effort.

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

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

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

IMAGES FROM BUDRUS



Visit www.justvision.org or email info@justvision.org for more information.

ON THE ROAD

DUBAI

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



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



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



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



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

BERLIN

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



Julia Bacha accepts the Panorama Audience Award, second prize.



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



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



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

BIOS

numerous awards, including the Directors Guild of America and IDA Awards for best documentary. In 2004, she directed the highly acclaimed film Control Room, which premiered at Sundance in 2004. After winning the TED Prize in 2006, Jehane used her wish to organize Pangea Day, a 4-hour, live show featuring short films used for social change, which was broadcast internationally in 2008.

RULA SALAMEH (Producer)

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

GEETA GANDBHIR (Supervising Editor)

Geeta has over eighteen years of editing experience in film and television. She has worked with distinguished, award-winning directors and producers such as Spike Lee, Robert Altman and Sam Pollard. She has worked for PBS, MTV, Discovery, Court TV, Oxygen Media and others. Recent projects include When the Levees Broke with filmmaker Spike Lee for which she won an Emmy Award for Best Editing, as well as several other documentaries for HBO, such as Music by Prudence, the 2010 Academy Award winner for Best Documentary Short. Most recently, she completed work on Edward Norton's film entitled By the People: The Election of Barack Obama, which will be released by HBO.

JUST VISION

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

JULIA BACHA (Director, Producer, Editor)

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

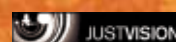
RONIT AVNI (Producer, Executive Producer)

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

JEHANE NOUJAIM (Executive Producer)

Jehane Noujaim began her career as a photographer and filmmaker in Cairo, Egypt. She attended Harvard University and was awarded the Gardiner Fellowship. She then joined the MTV news and documentary division as a producer for the series Unfiltered. Noujaim left her producing job at MTV to produce and direct Startup.com, which played as part of Sundance's documentary competition in 2001. The film won

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WHO'S WHO



AYED MORRAR



A leader of the movement in Budrus, Ayed organized the first Popular Committee Against the Wall in the West Bank by uniting all local Palestinian political factions, including Hamas and Fatah, and encouraging hundreds of Israelis to cross into the Occupied Palestinian Territories and demonstrate in support of his village. When challenged by his teenage daughter, he welcomed the launch of a women's contingent that quickly moved to the front lines. Ayed chose nonviolence because it is in the best interest of the Palestinian people to follow this path.

ILTEZAM MORRAR



Ayed's 15-year-old daughter was the first villager to succeed in getting past the Israeli border police and stopping a bulldozer by courageously jumping in front of it. Her fearlessness galvanizes the entire village and affirms the importance of women in the movement. The demonstrations in Budrus marked the first time that Iltezam, like most of the village's youth, met Israelis who were not soldiers or settlers. She says, "I visited many times my father in prison and all the Israelis that I met were very, very bad, but now I know that not all Israelis are the same. Some of them want to live together in peace."

YASMINE LEVI



Yasmine is sent to Budrus as a squad commander in the border police and comes face to face with the woman participating in the demonstrations. Her responsibility is to ensure that the Barrier gets built according to the path set by the military. Over the course of the demonstrations she develops a complex relationship with the women in the village who call her by name in their chants. She says, "Even if the women were beaten or shot, they had no problem with it. They went to all lengths to ensure their land would remain theirs."

AHMED AWWAD



A Hamas member who works with Ayed to mobilize the people of Budrus, Ahmed talks about nonviolence as a strategic tool, best suited to achieve the village's aims. He expresses surprise at the Israeli civilians who come to support the demonstrations by putting their bodies on the line and confronting other Israelis serving in the military: "We had already heard that there were some Israelis who wanted peace with the Palestinians. But these demonstrations exceeded expectations. . . . In these marches I saw these Israeli voices in real life; it wasn't just something I heard about."

KOBI SNITZ



Israeli mathematician who joined the demonstrations in Budrus because of his belief that direct action was missing in the Israeli peace movement at the time. "When we got about 200 meters from the soldiers, and they were armed I was sure we were going to die. But there were others around me who weren't even cowering. And gradually I got over my fear and got stronger from their strength and determination."

DORON SPIELMAN



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

REACTIONS

“There are so many people who will watch the film for whom the stereotypes they’ve had will be destroyed or at least eroded concerning different sides of that conflict or divide.”

Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan

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

Leo Wild, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Germany)



“Awe-inspiring tale.”

Khaleej Times (UAE)

Budrus

(Docu)

A Just Vision production with the support of the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program. (International sales: Just Vision, Washington, D.C.) Produced by Ronit Avni, Julia Bacha, Rula Salameh. Executive producers, Avni, Jehane Noujaim. Co-producers, Sandi Dubowski, Darius Fisher, Sigal Rosh.

Directed, written by Julia Bacha. Camera (color, DigiBeta), Shai Pollack, Monalisa Sundbom, Jonathan Mossey, Bacha, Riyad Deis, Mohammad Fawzi; editors, Geeta Gandbhir, Bacha; music, Kareem Roustom; sound, Scott Freiman. Reviewed at Dubai Film Festival (Cultural Bridge Gala), Dec. 13, 2009. Running time: 78 MIN.

With: Ayed Morrar, Iltezam Morrar, Ahmed Awwad, Yasmine Levy, Kobi Snitz, Doron Spielman.

(Arabic, Hebrew, English dialogue)

By ALISSA SIMON

A small agricultural village on the West Bank, Budrus made headlines in 2003 when residents decided to challenge — through nonviolent means — the Israeli separation barrier slated to expropriate their land. U.S.-based multihyphenate Julia Bacha (“Encounter Point”) provides a poignant chronicle of their long campaign. Mixing footage of villagers in their beloved olive fields, facing down Israeli soldiers, and interviews with key players, this inspiring docu stresses peaceful resistance as the best means of conflict resolution. A prime teaching tool, “Budrus” should see extended fest and special en-

gagement play before segueing to broadcast and ancillary.

Pic’s central figure is Ayed Morrar, a community organizer par excellence. He sought popular participation from all Palestinian political parties and orgs, as well as from international and Israeli activists.

Morrar’s articulate teen daughter Iltezam proves to be cut from the same cloth as she rallies local females to the cause. Shown in their element on the front lines, the women confidently chant slogans as they try to block soldiers’ access to the fields, even courageously jumping into the very holes the bulldozers are digging.

It is heartening to hear the Palestinians express appreciation for Jewish protesters who cross over from Israel to join them in solidarity. Even

Iltezam Morrar concedes, “I now know not all Israelis are the same.”

As the demonstrations continue and grow, the frustrated soldiers increase their use of force against the protesters. When a curfew is imposed on Budrus, the provocation of stone-throwing youths threatens to transform the peaceful resistance movement into what could be considered an armed response.

Bacha aims to be evenhanded, including voices from the Israeli border patrol and army. But the complaint that the planned route of the wall goes well outside current Israeli borders finds no rational government response. Capt. Doron Spielman agrees that the villagers have a justified grievance, yet he dismisses it, saying, “It’s unfortunate for the peo-

ple of Budrus, but less unfortunate than the death of an Israeli citizen.”

Bacha and fellow editor Geeta Gandbhir dynamically blend footage from multiple sources, but strangely, the pic fails to provide a sense of chronology. End credits reveal that there were 55 demonstrations, but it’s unclear how much time passed from the first to the last, or when exactly they took place. Also missing is a sense of how everyday life in the village was disrupted by such active participation in the protests. But these are small criticisms when compared to the pic’s useful analysis of what constitutes model conflict resistance.

A strong string, wind and percussion score by Kareem Roustom adds to the momentum and underlines key moments.