



P.O.V.

Discussion Guide

Season **21**

9 Star Hotel

A film by Ido Haar



www.pbs.org/pov



Letter from the Filmmaker

JUNE 2008

Dear Viewer,

I grew up in a village on the edge of a pine forest halfway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. On my way home, I often saw men running frantically across the highway. The fear in their eyes haunted me, and I wanted to find out where they were running to and whom they were running from. I discovered that the forest — my own backyard — serves as a hideout for thousands of Palestinians looking for work in Israel. I found a secret camp on the other side of the forest, but didn't find any people. Whenever I came around, they would flee. My persistence made them curious, and eventually they stayed put. Since then, I have been documenting a vibrant community of young men and the impossibly hard and strangely vital lives they live. My camera follows two best friends. Muhammad is the charismatic leader, the one who always has the answers. Ahmed is the sole provider for his mother and seven siblings. I spent nights and days with them, experiencing, as much as an outsider can, a life of fear, uncertainty, madness and grace and trying to understand how they live despite their circumstances, which to me seem unlivable — in the open, in the dark, exploited, away from home and family — indeed, how they simply survive.

Ido Haar, Director, *9 Star Hotel*



Filmmaker Ido Haar.
Photo courtesy of Ido Haar



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Introduction



Ahmed Abu Zahra, as seen in *9 Star Hotel*.

Photo courtesy of Ido Haar

"9 Star Hotel" is the facetious name that Palestinian construction workers give to the pile of rocks that marks their clandestine nightly abode — a group of cardboard enclosures and tin-covered huts hidden in the brush-covered hills above the Israeli town of Modi'in. It is also the name of a feature-length (52-minute) film about the daily travails of these "illegals" as they hide from police at night so that they can work in Modi'in during the day.

The Palestinian men are neither militants nor activists, but ordinary youths placed by history in difficult circumstances who emerge as fully human — flawed and sympathetic. Caught in a strange and dangerous situation, they must risk capture and live in makeshift shelters simply to survive.

As a film made by an Israeli that takes the point of view of its young Palestinian subjects, **9 Star Hotel** holds out a model for understanding, even across significant divides. That makes it a rich resource for outreach.

The vérité-style documentary reminds viewers that behind all the political contention that so often defines regions like the West Bank, there are human stories. The film's subjects face universal struggles to make a living, care for family and prove their manhood. Individual tragedy is counterbalanced by resilience as the young men dream of a brighter future, despite the uncertainties that define their current situation.



Background Information



A scene from *9 Star Hotel*.

Photo courtesy of Ido Haar

Modi'in, "City of the Future"

The newly-founded Israeli city of Modi'in is constructed near the edge of what Israel identifies as the West Bank and Palestinians call "occupied territory." Prior to 1967, the region was controlled by Jordan and was home to thousands of Palestinians. In the aftermath of the Six Day War in June 1967, the land and these Palestinians came under Israeli control. Claims to the territory have been contentious ever since.

Modi'in's cornerstone was laid in 1993. Development came as the population centers of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in central Israel got more and more crowded. Planners hoped the new city would relieve some of the density of those cities, establish a

core of development across the nation's center and solidify the presence of a Jewish population in the area.

Located 25 kilometers from both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Modi'in is within an hour's drive of 50 percent of Israel's population. Construction of homes and infrastructure has proceeded rapidly, with thousands of new housing units completed annually. A rail connection with Tel Aviv opened in 2007, providing a 30-minute connection between the two cities. Modi'in's current population of about 70,000 is growing by an estimated 7,500 people each year. Some projections suggest



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the population will reach 250,000 by the time all aspects of the development are in place, which would make it the fourth-largest city in Israel.

In the minds of some residents, the city's development has created an atmosphere that is more suburban than urban. The arrangement of the city into business, residential and entertainment districts has yielded few mixed-use areas. At the same time, business development has lagged behind the pace of new arrivals, meaning many residents continue to commute elsewhere for work.

The city's rapid growth has also led to the construction of neighborhoods on disputed territory, designated by the Israeli government as state land. According to the Israeli human rights organization B'tselem, one of Modi'in's eastern neighborhoods lies completely on land belonging to the Palestinian village of Bil'in. The construction of Israel's security barrier to protect the

A scene from *9 Star Hotel*.
Photo courtesy of Ido Haar

city has further exacerbated the problem because it separates farmers in Bil'in from their fields.

Sources:

"Modi'in: The Future City," City of Modi'in publication (2006), www.modiin.muni.il/ModiinEnglishVre.pdf; "Ten Years Young," *The Jerusalem Post* (August 10, 2007), www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1186557406849&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FshowFull; www.btselem.org/english/settlements/20070228_modiin_ilit_approval.asp; http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/803257.stm.



Background Information



A scene from *9 Star Hotel*.
Photo courtesy of Ido Haar

Palestinian Day Laborers

The number of Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza employed in Israel has varied greatly in the past decade. In the mid-1990s, 120,000 Palestinians held Israeli work permits. That began to drop significantly after the beginning of the second intifada in 2000, when greater restrictions were imposed on Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza entering Israel. The number of legal Palestinian workers shrank to a negligible amount in 2003 as construction began on Israel's separation barrier, then rose to more than 37,000 in 2004 and to more than 46,000 in 2005. Today, about 55,000 Palestinians hold the permits necessary to work in Israel.

Foreign workers from other countries have replaced the Palestinian labor supply to some extent, but the extremely high

levels of unemployment in the Palestinian territories coupled with the construction boom in Israel have created a powerful incentive for workers to cross the border illegally in search of jobs. Estimates place the number of Palestinians working in Israel without permits at more than 10,000. It is estimated that each worker supports as many as seven people on wages earned in Israel.

Without documentation, these workers often live in the shadows, in shacks, in unused structures or outdoors. Thousands are caught each week by Israeli security while attempting to cross the border, and B'Tselem reported in 2007 that those who are detained are held in poor conditions, with



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little food or water, for longer periods of time than allowed under Israeli law. In some cases, security forces have beaten those whom they have captured. In two recent cases, border policemen were indicted after fatally shooting Palestinians crossing the border illegally. Israel's security forces argue that tenacious border patrols are necessary to prevent terrorist attacks. "In 2007, Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, announced that it had foiled a plot to attack a synagogue in Modi'in and kidnap Americans in Israel.

Sources:

"Israel Risk: Labour Market Risk," Risk Briefing Select (October 5, 2007); "Shin Bet Foils Bombing of Modi'in Synagogue," *The Jerusalem Post* (June 20, 2007); "More Palestinian Workers Hide in Israel," by Laurie Copans, *The Associated Press* (June 1, 2007); <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/06/01/international/i100617D07.DTL>.

Israel's Separation Barrier

In 2002, following devastating suicide bombings, the Israeli government began building a barrier between itself and the West Bank. One immediately controversial issue was the route of the barrier, which did not trace the pre-1967 borders of Israel, but incorporated portions of Palestinian territory. The barrier, which many Israelis describe as a fence and many Palestinian supporters describe as a wall, consists of different elements along its course. Ultimately, the 420-mile length will include portions that rely on wire-and-mesh fencing with technological security measures, as well as portions that consist of a 26-foot concrete wall with watchtowers.

According to the Jewish Virtual Library, the construction of the barrier has succeeded in reducing terrorist attacks. In the 11 months between the erection of the first segment and the end of June 2004, only three attacks were successful, compared with 73 in the 34 months prior to construction.

For Palestinians who have to travel across the border for work, school or family obligations, including those with all of the proper permits, the erection of the barrier has caused significant delays. Palestinians have argued that cutting off access to resources across the border has intensified their hardships.

Sources:

"The New Walls of Jerusalem," *The Christian Science Monitor* (December 20, 2006) www.csmonitor.com/2006/1220/p01s04-wome.html; "Q&A: What Is the West Bank Barrier?" BBC, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/311159.stm; "Israel's Security Fence," Mitchell Bard (December 2, 2007) www.jewishvirtual-library.org/jsource/Peace/fence.html.



Background Information

Selected People Featured in *9 Star Hotel*

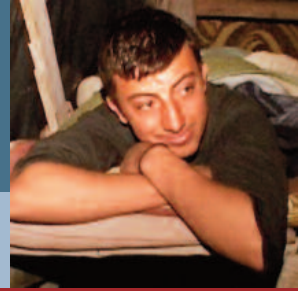


Muhammad—older construction worker



Ahmed—younger worker

Muhammad and Ahmed are back at their homes in Palestine. They are not working, but they are both married. Ahmed has a baby son and Muhammad has a two-month old daughter. They continue their attempts to work in Modi'in.



General Discussion Questions

Immediately after the film, you may want to give people a few quiet moments to reflect on what they have seen. If the mood seems tense, you can pose a general question and give people some time to themselves to jot down or think about their answers before opening the discussion.

Unless you think participants are so uncomfortable that they can't engage until they have had a break, don't encourage people to leave the room between the film and the discussion. If you save your break for an appropriate moment during the discussion, you won't lose the feeling of the film as you begin your dialogue.

One way to get a discussion going is to pose a general question such as:

- **If you could ask anyone in the film a single question, who would you ask and what would you ask him or her?**
- **What did you learn from this film? What insights did it provide?**
- **If friends asked you what this film was about, what would you tell them?**
- **Describe a moment or scene in the film that you found particularly disturbing or moving. What was it about that scene that was especially compelling for you?**



Discussion Prompts



Muhammad K.H Zawahra and Ahmed Abu Zahra,
as seen in *9 Star Hotel*.

Photo courtesy of Ido Haar

Labor Issues

- How is the experience of the men in the film like or unlike the experiences of day laborers or undocumented workers in other places? How is their situation like or unlike other places where borders divide areas of wealth and poverty?
 - How is Israel both dependent on and threatened by Palestinian day laborers? What role do these kinds of day laborers play in an economy?
 - How would you describe the living conditions of these workers? What is the long-term effect of living with the fear of capture? Are there ways that Israeli labor laws could be constructed that could improve the situation?
- Ahmed has no hope of fulfilling his dream of becoming police officer because he can't read and write. One of the other men has a brother who dreams of pursuing the study of science at a university, but the family has no way to raise the thousands of dollars required for tuition and expenses. What is the link between education and the poverty in which these young men live?



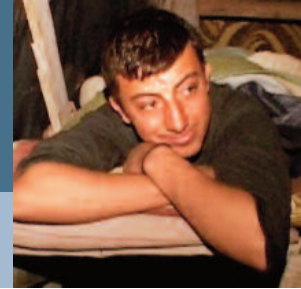
Discussion Prompts



A scene from *9 Star Hotel*.
Photo courtesy of Ido Haar

Palestinian-Israeli Relations

- Imagine an informal conversation between the men in the film and Israeli men their age. What might they talk about? Where would they find common ground? Do you see other places or subjects that could provide common ground between Palestinians and Israelis?
- What do you learn from the film about the human cost of Israel's security barrier or other security measures?
- Reflecting on Israel's treatment of Palestinians, Muhammad says, "If you shut a cat in a room, won't it jump at you?" What do you think he meant? In what constructive ways could Palestinian people release the tension he describes?
- The group talks about the moment of silence that Israel observes to commemorate the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis. How does their conversation illustrate the distance and the ties between Jews and Palestinians?
- What was your reaction to the burning of the group's shack? Brainstorm alternative ways for Israel to meet its security needs that would not engender so much anger, resentment and damage.
- If you were an elder in this community of young men, how would you help the group deal with the irony of building a town that they will not be permitted to live in?
- When the men share their hopes for the future, what do they say? How are their dreams like and unlike your dreams? What could be done to help people with common dreams work toward those dreams together, even across contentious borders?



Discussion Prompts

Policy

- If you could recommend to the Israeli government one policy change that would improve the lives of the men in the film, what would you recommend and why? Similarly, what one policy change would you recommend to the Palestinian Authority?
- Muhammad criticizes Palestinians for tending to focus on the past ("thinking backward") rather than the future ("thinking forward"). What do you think he meant? What would change if Palestinians focused on the future rather than the past?
- Assume that the Palestinian Authority was not constrained politically. What policies might it adopt to help these men?
- In previous years, many of the men or their fathers worked legally in Israel. How do the security needs of Israel force these young men into breaking Israeli law? How does living a clandestine lifestyle affect the well-being of these men and their families?

Identity

- How do the men form a community? What kinds of things do they do to support one another?
- The men show incredible perseverance in difficult circumstances. What are the sources of their resilience?
- How are these men shaped by beliefs about gender roles and the definition of manhood?
- Muhammad rejects a proposal that he let the others steal from his employer, saying, "I don't betray those who give me work." Are his friends immoral for considering theft? In your view, is morality absolute or does circumstance shape one's moral decision-making?
- The men dream that Modi'in will be someday be returned to them, despite the fact that none of them were born when Israel was established or when it occupied the West Bank in 1967. Why do you think ties to land are so powerful as to span generations? Is there land to which you feel tied? What is the source of those ties?

- The film ends with the men describing themselves: "We're like scavengers, like those who harvest olives after the locust." In this situation, who has power and how do they exercise it? How might these Palestinians increase their sense of power without having to take power away from Israelis or rely on Israelis to grant them power?

Stereotypes

- Prior to viewing the film, what came to mind when you heard the word "Palestinian" or "Arab"? In what ways did the film confirm or challenge your ideas?
- Describe how these men see Israel, Israelis and/or Jews. What are their sources of information? How are they informed and also limited by those sources? What are they missing? What kinds of actions could be taken to eliminate misconceptions?
- The men encounter a small group of Israeli children making a camp for themselves. One boy says, "I'm a bit scared of Arabs." In what ways do his actions contradict and/or affirm his words? What do you think each group learned about the other from their chance meeting?



Taking Action



- Find out who the day laborers are in your community. What are they like as individuals? If they are undocumented, are they undocumented by choice? Brainstorm ways to ensure that they have safe, comfortable housing and basic workplace protections.
- Start a program in your community that provides opportunities for Jews and Arabs to talk and get to know one another on a social basis.
- Host a teach-in on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that focuses on sharing personal stories rather than military or political policies.

A scene from *9 Star Hotel*.
Photo courtesy of Ido Haar



Resources

FILM-RELATED WEB SITES

Original Online Content on P.O.V. Interactive (www.pbs.org/pov)

P.O.V.'s 9 Star Hotel

www.pbs.org/pov/9StarHotel

The companion Web site to *9 Star Hotel* offers exclusive streaming video clips from the film, a podcast version of the filmmaker interview and a wealth of additional resources, including a Q&A with filmmaker Ido Haar, ample opportunities for viewers to “talk back” and talk to each other about the film, and the following special features:

BOOK EXCERPT

Context: The Hyperborder in a Globalized World

The spreading concern for national security has galvanized a renewed focus on border issues around the world, further sharpening autonomous and protective tendencies. In order to explore the various approaches to managing border relations in our globalized world, we present the first chapter of the new book, *Hyperborder: The Contemporary U.S.-Mexico Border and its Future* to provide examples of border relations ranging from hostile to cooperative, and illustrate the types of issues that can either plague a region or make it prosper.

What's Your P.O.V.?

P.O.V.'s online Talking Back Tapestry is a colorful, interactive representation of your feelings about 9 Star Hotel.

Listen to other P.O.V. viewers talk about the film and add your thoughts by calling 1-800-688-4768. www.pbs.org/pov/talkingback.html

The West Bank Barrier

BACKGROUND

BBC: GUIDE TO THE WEST BANK BARRIER

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/guides/456900/456944/html/default.stm>

An overview of the barrier provides an introduction, a map of the region, a timeline of its installation and a breakdown of the barrier structure.

BBC: Q&A: WHAT IS THE WEST BANK BARRIER?

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3111159.stm

This BBC Q&A gives several perspectives on the West Bank barrier, as well as the implications thereof. [September 15, 2005]

WASHINGTON POST: TWO PEOPLES, DIVIDED

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/interactives/barrier/

The West Bank Barrier is now a daily reality for Israelis and Palestinians alike, affecting almost every aspect of life in surrounding communities, both Israeli and Palestinian. [October 19, 2007]



Resources

ARGUMENTS FOR THE BARRIER

THE NEW YORK TIMES: HOW I LEARNED TO LOVE THE WALL

www.nytimes.com/2006/03/18/opinion/18manji.html?ex=1300338000&en=5bcee9d86aa4e6c5&ei=5090&partner=rssuserland&emc=rss

Muslim author Irshad Manji pens an editorial in which she acknowledges the difficulty caused by the security barrier for Palestinians, but argues that the barrier was birthed by suicide bombers, and that the barrier saves civilian lives, which justifies its existence. (March 18, 2006)

BBC: ISRAELI CITY SAYS BARRIER IS 'WORKING'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3654720.stm

Many Israelis say that the frequency of attacks by suicide bombers from Palestine has decreased since the implementation of the security barrier. (September 14, 2004)

THE MIDDLE EAST QUARTERLY: IS ISRAEL'S SECURITY BARRIER UNIQUE?

www.meforum.org/article/652

Arguing for the security barrier, author Ben Thein points to other security barriers on borders around the world, and calls those against the Israeli/Palestine barrier "hypocritical." He points out that suicide attacks in Israel has declined by 75% in the first six months of 2004, after the barrier was constructed, compared to the equivalent period in 2003. (Fall 2004)

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE BARRIER

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE: LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WALL IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (PDF)

www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/131/1671.pdf?PHPSESSID=1347a7b7d9dfd479115b432a7ceb11f5

In 2004, the International Court of Justice gave an advisory opinion and declared that the West Bank barrier was illegal, according to international law. Read the full text of the opinion (in both French and English) at the website of the Court.

B'TSELEM: THE ISRAELI INFORMATION CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

www.btselem.org/english/Separation_Barrier/index.asp

Arguing against the separation barrier, B'tselem outlines the illegality of the barrier, points out its violation of human rights and documents statistics and testimonies about the effects of the barrier on Palestinians.

THE NEW YORK TIMES: A WALL AS A WEAPON

www.nytimes.com/2004/02/23/opinion/23CHOM.html?ex=1216353600&en=80d8a9935d39efc5&ei=5070

Noam Chomsky's editorial argues against the security barrier by pointing out that it does not fall on the Israel side of the internationally recognized border -- the Green Line. Chomsky says that the construction of the barrier has allowed Israel to claim some of the most fertile lands of the West Bank and extends its control of water resources. (February 23, 2004)

Labor Issues in Israel/Palestine

ISRAEL MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE, AND LABOR: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE FIELD OF CONSTRUCTION

www.moit.gov.il/NR/exeres/6BFAC624-62A1-4155-95E6-E957CD2C3FEA.htm

A summary of Israeli labor laws governing workers who are not citizens.

B'TSELEM: WORKERS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

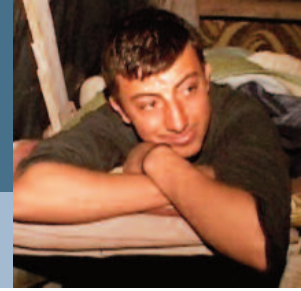
www.btselem.org/English/Workers/Index.asp

B'tselem, an Israeli human rights organizations, offers a wide range of resources related to worker rights and the treatment of Palestinians by the Israeli government.

DEMOCRACY AND WORKERS' RIGHTS CENTRE IN PALESTINE

www.advocacynet.org/page/dwrc

The website of this non-partisan worker advocacy organization includes a very wide range of resources and reports related to labor issues, from court cases brought by day laborers in Israel who were denied wages to research on Palestinian economic self-sufficiency.



Resources

ARTICLES FROM *HAARETZ* (AN ISRAELI DAILY NEWSPAPER)

***HAARETZ*: TWILIGHT ZONE**

www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/977766.html

Although the West Bank Barrier is now closed, illegal labor in Israel continues to this day. This article, from the moderate Israeli newspaper Haaretz, tells the story of a West Bank tile-layer who is painfully waylaid. (May 1, 2008).

***HAARETZ*: BUILDERS SEEK PERMITS FOR 10,000 ADDITIONAL PALESTINIAN WORKERS**

www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/895858.html

The Israeli Association of Contractors and Builders demanded an increase in permits given to Palestinian construction workers, like the workers showcased in 9 Star Hotel. (August 21, 2007)

***HAARETZ*: W. BANK LABORERS EARN LESS THAN 50% OF MINIMUM WAGE**

www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/877759.html

A study by the Knesset (the Israeli legislature) revealed that Palestinian workers employed in the West Bank settlements and factories earn less than half the minimum wage. (July 3, 2007)

NPR & PBS

PBS

P.O.V.: PROMISES

www.pbs.org/pov/pov2001/promises/

What is it really like to live in Jerusalem? Promises offers a touching and fresh insight into the Middle East conflict when filmmakers Shapiro, Goldberg and Bolado travel to this complex and charged city to see what seven children — Palestinian and Israeli — think about war, peace and just growing up. Living within 20 minutes of each other, these children are nevertheless locked in separate worlds. Through candid interviews, the film explores a legacy of distrust and bitterness, but signs of hope emerge when some of the children

dare to cross the checkpoints to meet one another. Trace the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the 20th century in this timeline (2001):

www.pbs.org/pov/pov2001/promises/timeline.html

NOW: GEORGE MITCHELL ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

www.pbs.org/now/shows/229/middle-east-crisis.html

As violence continues in Israel and Lebanon with no clear end in sight, NOW's David Brancaccio talks to George Mitchell, the former U.S. Senate Majority Leader, about what America can do to help resolve the crisis. (July 26, 2006)

FRONTLINE/WORLD: "TRACING BORDERS"

www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/fellows/israel/intro.html

This personal essay follows Robin Shulman in Israel as she explores the shifting frontiers of a country without established borders. Shulman watched the construction of the Seam Line Project, a massive security fence in the northern West Bank and around parts of Jerusalem, intended to separate Israelis and Palestinians. (February 2003)

THE ONLINE NEWSHOUR:

"TWO VIEWS OF WEST BANK BARRIER"

www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/middle_east/conflict/map_westbank.html

In early 2004, Elizabeth Farnsworth visited the Middle East and spoke with Israelis and Palestinians about the controversial security wall going up between Israel and the West Bank. (2004)

NPR

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED: SKEPTICISM GROWS OVER TWO-STATE MIDEAST SOLUTION

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=90474343

Even as President Bush tries to boost prospects for peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, optimism on both sides is dwindling. Many, including a growing number of moderate Palestinians, are now questioning the basis of the process — the idea of Israel and Palestine living side by side — and the two-state ideal is increasingly slipping away. (May 15, 2008)



Resources

WEEKEND EDITION: BARRIER MAKES ACCESS TO BETHLEHEM DIFFICULT

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5038381

As Israel completes a portion of the barrier it is building in and around the West Bank, Bethlehem is effectively sealed off from Jerusalem ahead of the Christmas season. Locals worry that holiday tourists will find it inconvenient to visit there. (December 4, 2005)

NPR.ORG: SHARON: TEL AVIV BLAST SHOWS NEED FOR BARRIER

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=3292019

An explosion at a bus stop in Tel Aviv kills an Israeli soldier and wounds more than 14 people. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the attack showed the need for Israel's controversial security barrier in the West Bank, which the World Court has declared illegal. NPR's Julie McCarthy reports. (July 11, 2004)

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED: ISRAEL REJECTS WORLD COURT RULING ON BARRIER

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=3262003

Israeli officials say they will not accept Friday's World Court ruling that the so-called separation barrier under construction on the border between Israel the West Bank should be dismantled. The decision was welcomed by Palestinian officials, who now want international action to enforce the ruling. NPR's Peter Kenyon reports. (July 9, 2004)

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED: ISRAELI COURT RULES SECURITY BARRIER MUST ALTER COURSE

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=3057038

Israel's highest court has compelled the government to alter the route of one section of its controversial security barrier in the West Bank. The court said the planned route would impose unacceptable hardships on thousands of Palestinian villagers northeast of Jerusalem. NPR's Peter Kenyon reports. (June 30, 2004)

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED: ANALYSIS: CONTROVERSY OVER THE SECURITY BARRIER IN THE WEST BANK

www.npr.org/programs/atc/transcripts/2004/jun/040630.kenyon.html

The Israeli Supreme Court is forcing a change in Israel's project to build a security wall in the West Bank. Israel considers the barrier an essential means of protecting Israelis against Palestinian suicide bombers. Today, the court ruled nearly 20 miles of the barrier must be rerouted to reduce hardships to the surrounding Palestinian population. Israel's Defense Ministry says it will comply with the ruling. NPR's Peter Kenyon reports. (June 30, 2004)

MORNING EDITION: ANALYSIS: MANY PALESTINIANS RELOACTING WITHIN JERUSALEM FOR FEAR OF BEING SEALED OFF FROM THE CITY AS A RESULT OF ISRAEL'S NEW SECURITY BARRIER

www.npr.org/programs/morning/transcripts/2004/apr/040412.mccarthy.html

At his home in Texas today, President Bush meets with Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak. Later this week, the president will hold talks with Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon. Israel's security barrier is prompting thousands of Palestinians living on the outskirts of Jerusalem to move into the eastern, traditionally Arab side of the city. Many fear that the barrier eventually will seal off Jerusalem from the West Bank and separate the Palestinians from jobs, schools and hospitals in the city. From Jerusalem, NPR's Julie McCarthy reports. (April 12, 2004)

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED: ISRAELI NEIGHBORS UNITE AGAINST BARRIER

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1803349

Residents of one Israeli village join with their Palestinian neighbors in the West Bank to oppose the route of Israel's security barrier. The Israelis are backing a Palestinian petition filed with Israel's Supreme Court. NPR's Julie McCarthy reports. (March 30, 2004)



How to Buy the Film

To order *9 Star Hotel*, go to
www.edenproductions.co.il/detailProduction.asp?plD=15&fromPage=productions



Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and entering its 21st season on PBS, the award-winning P.O.V. series is the longest-running series on television to feature the work of America's best contemporary-issue independent filmmakers. Airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m., June through October, with primetime specials during the year, P.O.V. has brought more than 250 award-winning documentaries to millions nationwide and now has a Webby Award-winning online series, P.O.V.'s Borders. Since 1988, P.O.V. has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation around today's most pressing social issues. More information about P.O.V. is available online at www.pbs.org/pov.

Major funding for P.O.V. is provided by PBS, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Educational Foundation of America, The Fledgling Fund, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, The September 11th Fund, and public television viewers. Funding for P.O.V.'s Diverse Voices Project is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. P.O.V. is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including KCET Los Angeles, WGBH Boston and Thirteen/WNET New York.

P.O.V. Community Engagement and Education

P.O.V. provides Discussion Guides for all films as well as curriculum-based P.O.V. Lesson Plans for select films to promote the use of independent media among varied constituencies. Available free online, these originally produced materials ensure the ongoing use of P.O.V.'s documentaries with educators, community workers, opinion leaders, and general audiences nationally. P.O.V. also works closely with local public-television stations to partner with local museums, libraries, schools, and community-based organizations to raise awareness of the issues in P.O.V.'s films.

P.O.V. Interactive

www.pbs.org/pov

P.O.V.'s award-winning Web department produces a Web-only showcase for interactive storytelling, P.O.V.'s Borders. It also produces a Web site for every P.O.V. presentation, extending the life of P.O.V. films through community-based and educational applications, focusing on involving viewers in activities, information and feedback on the issues. In addition, www.pbs.org/pov houses our unique Talking Back feature, filmmaker interviews, viewer resources and information on the P.O.V. archives as well as myriad special sites for previous P.O.V. broadcasts.

American Documentary, Inc.

www.americandocumentary.org

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream-media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic-engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.

Front cover: Ahmed Abu Zahra, as seen in *9 Star Hotel*.
 Photo courtesy of Ido Haar

