



## The Concrete Curtain

Directed by Benny Brunner

Produced by Alexandra Jansse, Benny Brunner

Year of production: 2004

Running time: 76 minutes

A Xela Films production in association with LASSO Film & TV Production

Versions: English



On Sunday, January 11, 2004, Israel began drawing a hard line around Jerusalem by walling it off from Abu Dis, an Arab village joined to the city for generations. Only a 10-15 minute drive from the city center, towers of concrete slab now divide Abu Dis, keeping part of it on the Jerusalem side and separating neighbors and relatives who live just blocks or even a street apart. Among the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians affected by it, is also a former Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, who lives in Abu Dis only a couple of blocks from the ugly concrete slabs of the wall.

The film documents the daily routine of two Palestinian middle class families who live under the shadow of the wall in the greater Jerusalem area; one family on the Israeli side, the other on the Palestinian side.

Israeli journalist Gideon Levy, describes the daily scenes along the wall in an article in Haaretz newspaper: "...thousands of school children waiting every morning, in all weather, for the IDF or Border Police jeep to arrive and open the gate for them on their way to school, the farmers cut off from their fields, the patients kept away from their clinics, the villages locked and bolted and the sight of a town behind barbed wire... After the settlements, the collective punishment and the closure policy, the fence is the next penalty to be forced on the Palestinians."

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