



Director's Statement

“The Mandate – for whom international law matters”

“The Mandate” is a culmination of acquired knowledge and experience over time.

Humanitarian turned filmmaker is a journey I was not able to foresee. However, witnessing suffering of people in conflicts the world over came with the realization that standing idly by was never an option. The drive to effect change grew proportionally with the numbness in the face uncontrolled anger and greed, warmongering and profiteering.

Having learned that international law adhered to in conflict is the best guarantor for sustainable peace. I was determined, to give it all to make that change. Working in the ‘field’ and in countless missions I realized early on was not the only way to plea for the respect of the law and for humanity.

When I turned to filmmaking and potentially strengthening international law that way, I realized the power of messaging and advocacy through film.

From the moment I returned home, in 2014, I worked toward these goals. From the beginning I sensed that the messages in the film were of equal importance to those eager to learn. Now, ten years later and after releasing my second feature documentary, I am convinced education through film is as important.

“BROKEN – A Palestinian Journey Through International Law” has made its way into more than one hundred university libraries giving over a million students access to the film. Tens of thousands of students are actually being taught with our film each year. Master’s and PhD students’ theses have been inspired by it and numerous articles written in different languages.

Additionally, BROKEN has been debated, and many times in my presence, in film festivals, academia, and by organisations, including the United Nations. The film seems timeless as we now receive more inquiries than at any time before, testifying to its pertinence.

Shortly after the release of BROKEN I started working on a project we call “Behind-the-Chambers: testimonies by international law experts”. Two series of these are available to the public and soon to be released on podcasts. A new series has been started called: “Outside-the-Chambers: testimonies about international law from leaders and diplomats”.

An educational film based on extensive research is almost ready to be released. “The Curious – International Law for Youth” is put together for secondary pupils starting from 14 years plus. It has been elaborated together with over 60 teachers in 20 countries and supported by a team of senior law experts over the last number of years.

Now, with all that extra knowledge and experience we are releasing “The Mandate – for whom international law matters” into a world, sadly, much more in need for it.

Thanks go to all those who appreciate our film work and for making “The Mandate” a new journey to strengthen international law.