

Director Statement

Fathers Don't Shoot* was born from a question that stayed with me: **How far can a father be pushed before grief turns into revenge?

This film is not simply a story about conflict, loss, or violence. At its heart, it is a story about a father who loses the most precious thing in his life and is forced to confront the consequences of choices made years before. Through his journey, I wanted to explore the fragile line between humanity and hatred, and how violence can continue from one generation to another.

As a Palestinian filmmaker, I wanted to tell this story from a deeply human perspective. I did not want to create a film that simply divides people into heroes and villains. Instead, I wanted to focus on the emotional cost of conflict—the silence of families, the fear of children, the pain of parents, and the decisions people make when they feel they have nothing left to lose.

Visually, I approached the film with a restrained and cinematic language. The landscapes, checkpoints, walls, and confined spaces are not merely locations; they reflect the emotional state of the characters. Darkness, distance, silence, and light are used to create tension while allowing the audience to feel the weight of what remains unspoken.

The relationship between a father and his children is the emotional core of the film. I wanted the audience to experience the story not only through what happens, but through what the characters cannot say.

Ultimately, *Fathers Don't Shoot* is a film about loss, memory, fatherhood, and the devastating cycle of violence. It is also a reminder that behind every conflict are human beings carrying wounds that may never be visible.

I made this film because I believe cinema has the power to make us look at painful realities through another person's eyes—and sometimes, that is where understanding begins.

Mohammed Shaheen
Director & Producer