

a film by
MOHAMMED SHAHEEN

الأبَاءُ لَا يُطْلِقُونَ الرِّفَاقَ

F A T H E R ' S D O N ' T S H O O T

"When pain turns into a desire for revenge... Can a father remain a father?"

Produced & Directed by: Mohammed Shaheen

Palestine – 2026

Short Narrative Film

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الآباء لا يظلمون النار

FATHER'S DON'T SHOOT

English Subtitles الترجمة

18:27 minutes

English, Arabic, Hebrew

الأبأى لا يطيقون النار

F A T H E R ' S D O N ' T S H O O T

Genre: Human Drama / War / Political Drama

Main Theme: Humanity in the face of violence and revenge.

Main Conflict: The father's inner struggle between his humanity and his desire for revenge.

Setting/Time: Contemporary Era

Location: Bethlehem City – Palestine



Logline

On their way back from a simple family trip, a Palestinian family stops to rescue a stranger following a car accident, forging a fleeting human connection. However, as days pass, the lives of both families intersect once again in ways neither could have anticipated, forcing humanity into a harsh test between fear, loss, and revenge.



Short Synopsis

A small Palestinian family lives in a refugee camp, holding on to the details of daily life and a simple hope for a better future for their young daughter, who suffers from a chronic illness. On what seems like an ordinary day, long-awaited news reaches the father, granting the family a rare moment of joy. However, on their journey back, they encounter a car accident and decide to help a stranger, despite the complexities surrounding his identity. Though it appears to be a fleeting moment, it leaves a lasting impression. Days later, the distance between two families—each living on opposite sides of the conflict—begins to shrink. Caught between fear of the future and escalating tensions around them, the father faces a chain of events that will forever alter the meaning of that initial act of humanity. When the conflict directly reaches his family, he is confronted with a question harder than fear itself:

—————> **Can A Person Preserve Their Humanity When Pushed To The Brink Of Revenge?** <————

Director's Statement

I Have Always Believed That Cinema Does Not Need To Tell Us Who Is The Villain And Who Is The Victim As Much As It Needs To Confront Us With A Question We Cannot Escape. The Concept Of This Film Started With A Simple Question: What Happens To A Human Being When Asked To Choose Between Their Humanity And Their Pain? At The Heart Of The Film Is A Palestinian Family Living Out Their Daily Life Amid A Reality That Offers Few Choices. I Wanted To Approach This Family Not Through Political Lenses, But Through The Most Deeply Human Emotions: Fear For One's Children, Hope, Love, And The Terror Of Losing Those We Hold Dear. To Me, This Film Is Not About A Single Moment Or A Single Side; It Is About The Cycle Of Violence That Passes From One Person To Another Until It Becomes Almost Impossible To Tell Where It Began Or Who Can Stop It. I Chose To Leave Some Answers Off-Screen And Keep The Ending Open, Because I Do Not Wish To Prescribe What Viewers Should Feel Or Choose. I Want Them To Leave The Cinema Carrying The Question With Them: Can We Preserve Our Humanity, Even When Pain Gives Us Every Reason To Abandon It? This Film Is Dedicated To Everyone Who Believes That Human Beings, Even In The Darkest Of Moments, Still Retain The Right To Choose.



Mohammed Shaheen is a Palestinian film director and producer working across cinema, television, and commercial production. He is dedicated to crafting deeply human stories rooted in reality that touch upon individual and societal themes. Passionate about filmmaking and cinema from an early age, he has continuously developed his career through a wide range of film, television, and commercial projects across the Arab world. Shaheen's work stems from a keen focus on themes of humanity, family, identity, conflict, loss, and the impact of violence on individuals. He believes cinema has the power to reach audiences through simple human details without resorting to direct answers or ready-made judgments. In his narrative works, he strives to create authentic, complex characters placed in extraordinary circumstances that reveal their humanity and prompt viewers to ask their own questions. His short film, *Fathers Don't Shoot*, stands as a pivotal project in his narrative filmmaking journey. Through the story of a Palestinian family, it presents a reflection on humanity, the cycle of violence, loss, revenge, and the choices one is forced to make under the most challenging circumstances. Mohammed Shaheen believes that a successful film is not necessarily one that provides answers, but one that leaves the audience with a question that lingers long after the final frame.



الْأَبَاءُ لَا يُضَلِّقُونَ النِّسَارَ

F A T H E R ' S D O N ' T S H O O T