

THE IRON WALL

At their July meeting, members of Faringdon Peace Group watched a disturbing 2006 documentary 'The Iron Wall' about the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, which, the film argues, is a strategy for permanent occupation of the territory. There are over 200 settlements in the West Bank, considered illegal by the United Nations, the 4th Geneva Convention and the International Court of Justice, which impact every aspect of life for Palestinians, from land confiscation, theft of natural resources, denial of basic human rights, and creation of an apartheid-like system. The most devastating impact is on the peace process as the settlements and related infrastructure cut through Palestinian territory, making the creation of a contiguous Palestinian state impossible. The separation Wall consolidates these facts on the ground, cutting deep into Palestinian territory, snaking round settlements and incorporating them into Israel. Although the border between Israel and the Palestinian West Bank is only 315 km long, the wall is 670 km, annexing 80% of settlers and settlements. Palestinians and Israelis began the peace process based on a very simple principle: land for peace. Settlements destroy that principle and create a land with no peace.

The 52 minute film, made by the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee, is not easy viewing but sets out the arguments clearly and describes vividly the human tragedies which result from Israeli policies and the lack of international will to challenge them. And yet it also shows the bravery and determination of peace activists on both sides who refuse to give up their dream of freedom for the Palestinians. You can watch the film on this website <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-iron-wall/>

There is no Peace Group meeting in August, but many members will take part in local commemorations of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August.