

UNRAVELING UNRWA

A Documentary Film by Zygote Films and Beetz Brothers

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STORY



UNraveling UNRWA: A Documentary Film

In the wake of the October 7th massacre and explosive allegations implicating UNRWA staff in kidnappings, this documentary explores the global fallout and Israel's legislative move to sever ties with the agency amid Gaza's deepening humanitarian crisis. Through a wide lens of historical and political perspectives, the film traces UNRWA's 75-year evolution—from its post-1948 war origins as a temporary relief body for Palestinian refugees to its enduring and controversial role in the region's unresolved conflict.

After the October 7th massacre and claims of UNRWA staff involvement in kidnappings, Israel cut ties with the agency amid Gaza's humanitarian crisis. This documentary examines UNRWA's 75-year journey—from its post-1948 origins as a temporary refugee agency to its controversial role in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

INTERVIEWEES



Scott Anderson

Head of UNRWA operations in Gaza since October 7th, Anderson offers a sobering account of the humanitarian crisis unfolding during the war. He describes how UNRWA is caught between Hamas, Israel, and its mission to provide relief to 1.5 million newly displaced Palestinian refugees.



Einat Wilf

A prominent Israeli intellectual and former Knesset member, Wilf participated in former Prime Minister Ehud Barak's peace efforts in 2000. She is co-author of *The War of Return*, a historical study examining UNRWA's controversial role in perpetuating the Palestinian refugee issue since 1948.



Peter Hansen

Danish-born and former UNRWA Commissioner-General (1996–2005), Hansen served in Gaza and the West Bank. Known for his outspoken criticism of Israeli policies toward Palestinians, he remains a staunch defender of UNRWA and opposes efforts to dismantle the agency.



Prof. Benny Morris

A renowned historian, Morris is best known for his groundbreaking book *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem*, which explores the causes and consequences of the 1948 war.



Niclas Herbst

A German politician from the CDU party, Herbst has served as a Member of the European Parliament since 2019. He currently chairs the Budgetary Committee.



Zlatko Zigic

Born in the former Yugoslavia, Zigic witnessed the civil war and its resulting refugee crisis. He spent two decades at the UN Migration Agency and served as Chief of the UN Diplomatic Mission in Moscow and Central Asia.



James G. Lindsay

Former legal advisor and general counsel for UNRWA, Lindsay oversaw the agency's legal affairs. After leaving UNRWA, he authored a critical report evaluating its operations and policies.



Mohammed Dajani Daoudi

A Jerusalem-born scholar and founding director of the Jerusalem Studies and Research Institute. Born before 1948, he was classified as a Palestinian refugee by UNRWA, though his family declined the designation.



Hillel Neuer

A Canadian-born international lawyer, writer, and executive director of UN Watch, a human rights NGO and UN watchdog. Neuer has been a vocal critic of UNRWA and advocates for reducing reliance on foreign funding.



Ayelet Samerano

Mother of Johnathan Samerano, who was abducted from the Nova Festival by a UNRWA employee—a case documented on video and presented as evidence against the agency. She holds the UN accountable for her son's fate.

TEAM



Duki Darwish Dror

An international award-winning documentary filmmaker creator of Inside the Mossad, a docseries about Israel's spy agency, was a hit on Netflix. Borders of Blood, about Lebanon's years of civil war, that won six Israeli Academy awards. His recent film about the October 7th events, Supernova, won the German Academy Award and aired on major international media outlets in 50 countries and was watched by millions of viewers.



Reinhardt Beetz

Co-founder of Beetz Brothers Film Production, Germany's top documentary production company, part of Leonine Studios. As executive producer Reinhardt Beetz is behind top international documentary productions, including Juan Carlos: Downfall of the King, The Cleaners and Supernova. For the past decade Dror and Beetz have collaborated on many co-productions.



Dana Wolfe

For more than a decade Dana was a producer for ABC Nightline with Ted Koppel. Her work has been recognized with five Emmy awards and a Columbia Peabody award. Along with Dror and Beetz, Dana worked as an editorial producer on Lebanon: Borders of Blood. and The Cassandra Prophecy about the drug and money laundering cooperation of Iran and Hezbollah in Latin America.

Contact

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TV & Production

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UNRWA HEADQUARTERS - GAZA

