



Introduction and discussion with Yoav Shamir
 Director, documentary filmmaker and film producer.



- Free of charge -

On 6.3.2024, from 8 p.m. in Lecture Hall D of the Philosophenturm (Von-Melle-Park 6)

„Checkpoint“

A film by Yoav Shamir
(ISR, 2003)

Only peace creates peace. This realisation, far too often dismissed as "trivial", is currently taking on new fundamental, global and political-practical weight - not least in view of the Israeli government's genocidal warfare against the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip.

The geopolitically and arms-industry motivated support of Western governments for Israel's policy of expulsion, expansion and occupation, which has been in violation of international law from the outset,

as well as for its rejection of any dialogue on a mutually accepted, sovereign two-state state (end of the Oslo peace process in 2000), has now helped right-wing extremist settlers to power, who no longer make any secret of their intentions to destroy the Palestinians. A trend that can only be broken by the courageous intervention of international civil society.

The multi-award-winning documentary film "Checkpoint" by Israeli director Yoav Shamir makes an important contribution to this.

It shows encounters that took place during the Second Intifada (2000-2005) between Palestinian civilians and Israeli military personnel at the "checkpoints" - the roadblocks and checkpoints that the army erected throughout the West Bank and (at the time) the Gaza Strip in the course of the occupation and colonisation. To a certain extent, they form the concrete expression of the everyday violent injustice and oppression that was established with the occupation regime in 1967.

In order to get from one village to the next, Palestinian school buses, ambulances and wedding candidates are subjected to the arbitrariness of gun-toting soldiers, as are children in need of treatment or elderly gentlemen with limited mobility. Constantly changing transit regulations, sudden curfews and unpredictable waiting times make even the mildest of cases an agonising ordeal for Palestinians in their daily lives.

In a completely unspectacular way, the captured scenes also convey a deep impression of the omnipresent, silent companion in the status of lawlessness: humiliating assaults, arbitrary arrests or the use of physical force are always looming as a possibility. The fact that on the other side there are usually almost equally fear-driven conscripts of barely more than 20 years of age rarely makes the situation any better.

It is remarkable that the film needs no commentary to unfold its enlightening effect. Precisely by showing "everyday" scenes from the occupied territories - which, although they do not do so in front of the camera, could turn into physical violence at any time - it reveals the real essence of the occupation: it is a latent, structural relationship of violence that degrades the Palestinian population day in, day out to tolerated people in their own country and freezes Israeli society in paranoid brutalisation.

The result is a narrative statement of captivating clarity and highly topical relevance: without an end to apartheid, neither side will be able to live in peace and security, dignity and prosperity.

Despite all the violence, the will for such a sustainable peace solution is still very much alive in significant parts of the local population.

However, international solidarity and commitment is crucial for its realisation: for an immediate ceasefire, for an end to all arms deliveries to the region, for the realisation of the two-state solution under the demilitarised guarantee of the United Nations and for the realisation of indivisibly equal cultural, social and political basic and human rights for all. This "only legitimate consequence of the singular crime against humanity of the Holocaust" (D. Feldman) would suit us all particularly well. An imperative of practical reason with paradigmatic significance for the development of civilisation. Humanity knows no boundaries! Bread, peace, dignity - now! International solidarity: Put an end to austerity.

"Me-Ti said: More important than emphasising how wrong it is to do injustice is to emphasise how wrong it is to tolerate injustice. Only a few have the opportunity to do injustice, many have the opportunity to tolerate injustice."
 Bertolt Brecht, "Me-Ti. Book of Turns", written in exile in the 1930s.

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