

Hebron

[Film: 8 minutes](#)

In Hebron, a human rights organization called B'Tselem is giving children video cameras to document their daily lives, hoping that it will lessen violence between Palestinians and Jews.



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Grades 6 – 12
World History

World History – Standard 44 Understand the search for community, stability, and peace in an interdependent world

- Understand the role of ethnicity, cultural identity, and religious beliefs in shaping economic and political conflicts across the globe (e.g., why terrorist movements have proliferated and the extent of their impact on politics and society in various countries; the tensions and contradictions between globalizing trends of the world economy and assertions of traditional cultural identity and distinctiveness, including the challenges to the role of religion in contemporary society; the meaning of jihad and other Islamic beliefs that are relevant to military activity, how these compare to the Geneva Accords, and how such laws and principles apply to terrorist acts)

Resource - [McREL Content Knowledge – Standards & Benchmarks](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ☞ *The area in Hebron that is profiled in the film is controlled by Israel but home to both Palestinians and Jewish settlers. Why do these people stay here, living across the street from people who are considered to be their enemies?*
 - ☞ *The Palestinian Abu Aisha family lives in a “cage house” to protect themselves from the Jewish settlers across the street from them. How do you think they feel being “locked in” for their own safety? How does this affect the attitudes of the children growing up in this environment?*
 - ☞ *How is the name “Shooting Back” an appropriate title for the video program initiated by B’Tselem?*
 - ☞ *There are two results in filming the behavior of the Jewish settlers: (1) people are outraged at the behavior, (2) the behavior has gotten better. Which do you think is the more effective result from the videotaping?*
 - ☞ *What do you think of the idea that filming someone makes them act better?*
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Excerpts from Interview

Oren Yakobovich

Oren Yakobovich is Director of Video at [B'Tselem](#), the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

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What is the mission statement of your organization?

B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories has earned international recognition as the leading Israeli organization advocating to improve human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Founded in 1989, B'Tselem's primary goals are to protect human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to generate commitment among the Israeli public to universal human rights principles. The organization promotes these goals through a combination of first class documentation and research, and innovative public education and advocacy strategies.

What are three things about your NGO that you wish people knew?

- That B'Tselem is comprised of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim staff members.
- That B'Tselem staff, individually and collectively, are deeply committed to seeing universal human rights principles applied consistently, in Israel and throughout the region.
- That we share a collective hope that we will one day put ourselves out of business!

What would you consider to be B'Tselem's greatest accomplishment?

B'Tselem has produced a wealth of reliable information, both in written and visual form, about human rights in the Occupied Territories and has succeeded in breaking the "conspiracy of silence" within the Israeli public surrounding these issues. B'Tselem has also earned respect for its impartiality and accuracy and has become a primary source of information for the local and international media, as well as Israeli policymakers and the international community. B'Tselem's credibility is reflected in the respect Israeli officials grant to the organization. The Israel Defense Forces and other relevant authorities issue a response to every B'Tselem report and these responses are published together with the report. Both military and government officials have come to understand that B'Tselem's criticism must be taken seriously and addressed in a substantive manner.
