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THE BATTLE OF JERUSALEM

A 52' documentary by Stéphane Amar

THE BATTLE OF JERUSALEM

PITCH

Hamas named its operation "Operation Al-Aqsa Deluge". It was named after the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is located in the Old City of Jerusalem. The military wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad is called "Al-Quds Brigades" (Arabic for Jerusalem). Why is this city more than ever at the center of the conflict?

SUMMARY

Hamas militia stormed into Israel screaming "Free Al-Aqsa" in reference to the Al-Aqsa Mosque which is located in the Old City of Jerusalem. The group then named its operation "Operation Al-Aqsa Deluge". The military wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad is called "Al-Quds Brigades" (Arabic for Jerusalem). In Gaza, the Palestinian islamists set off the Battle of Jerusalem.

For years, the Israelis have been conquering the Holy City at full speed. The city is undergoing spectacular urban development, with the construction of new districts, tramways and major hotels. The Israelis' stated objective is to reinforce Jewish sovereignty over the city and make the 1967 annexation of East Jerusalem irreversible.

The Old City of Jerusalem is at the heart of this relentless conquest. During the recent Jewish holidays, the Western Wall Plaza was visited by a record number of people. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis from all over the country came to pray and demonstrate their attachment to the "eternal capital of the Jewish people". The most nationalistic of them even advocate rebuilding the Holy Temple on the Temple Mount, also known as today's Al-Aqsa mosque compound.

Jerusalem, a city of over a million inhabitants where Israelis and Palestinians live side by side on a daily basis, is more than ever at the heart of the conflict. Each side is deploying its own strategies to win. The war in Gaza and even the confrontation with Hezbollah and Iran all revolve around this issue.

This documentary tells the story of the Battle of Jerusalem, a political and religious issue. It places recent events in their context and goes back over history to shed light on the present. It examines the main protagonists in this conflict, which is both a nationalistic and a religious one. We will interview Islamists, Jewish nationalists, imams, rabbis, intellectuals, town planners, the military... Enriched by interviews with historians and geopoliticians, it helps us understand what is at stake at the center of the world.

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