

THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER

The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle WA

Fall 2004

Vol. 30 No. 1

FINDING COMMON GROUND IN THE MIDDLE EAST *Avrum Burg and Yasser Abed Rabbo to Speak at the UW*



Yasser Abed Rabbo

ON December 1, 2003 Yasser Abed Rabbo and Avrum Burg together with a group of Israeli and Palestinian civic leaders negotiated and signed the Geneva Accord, a proposal that, if implemented would resolve some of the thorniest issues of the conflict and pave the way towards ending decades of bloodshed in the Middle East. Abed Rabbo and Burg will present their efforts to promote peace in Israel and Palestine in a public presentation in Kane Hall, October 12, 2004.

Yasser Abed Rabbo is the former Minister of

October 12, 2004
7:30 p.m.
Kane Hall
Rm. 130
University of
Washington
*Free and open
to the public*

Information and Culture of the Palestinian Authority and is an internationally recognized Palestinian spokesperson. In 1968, Abed Rabbo was a founding member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a leftist group in the PLO. Abed Rabbo participated in both the Madrid and Oslo peace negotiations.

Avrum Burg was the youngest Speaker ever in the history of the Israeli Knesset and a staunch supporter of peace in the Middle East. Burg was a senior member of the Israeli Labor Party and one of the most charismatic members



Avrum Burg

of Knesset. Burg also served as the head of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the World Zionist Organization.

The discussion will be moderated by Erin Hart, a progressive talk show host on 710 KIRO Newsradio in Seattle.

Sponsors for the event include: Beyond Borders: An Arab-Jewish Dialogue, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, Jerusalem Arc, Macalester College, Middle East Center, Jackson School, University of Washington, School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle University, Temple De Hirsch – Sinai, The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, University Temple United Methodist Church, US Inter-Religious Committee for Peace in the Middle East, and World Affairs Council-Seattle.

TEACHERS: REGISTRATION FORM INSIDE
USING DOCUMENTARY FILM IN THE CLASSROOM WORKSHOP

OneWorld Now! Students Travel to Morocco

THE first trip to Morocco for students in Seattle's OneWorld Now! program was a tremendous success. These students have been studying Arabic language and global leadership in after-school classes at five public high schools. The highlight of the year was their four-week travel/study trip to Morocco in July, which included home stays, excursions around the country, Arabic language lessons, and community service projects.

"Morocco made me more aware that my way of doing something isn't the only good way." —Heather

AmidEast provided the in-country logistics for the students' Morocco experience, finding local host families in Rabat's old medina district for all the students. In addition to regularly scheduled morning Arabic language classes, students participated in community service projects, as well as taking several excursions to other cities and historical sites, including Fez, Marrakech, Azrou and a hiking trip in the High Atlas Mountains.

As high school students, the OneWorld Now! participants were by far one of the youngest student groups traveling to Morocco. According to Kristin Hayden, Executive Director, OneWorld Now!, who was traveling with the program, some Moroccans seemed surprised that a couple of students were practicing Muslims, as well as the diversity and young ages within the group, and she said, "We certainly shook up the notion of the

traditional stereotype of what it means to be American."

The students' community service projects included helping in an orphanage, a beach clean-up, and tutoring English to disadvantaged youth.

Highlights of the trip included connecting with Moroccan youth, and drinking tea with Berber nomads in their tents. The students were also inspired by meeting a PeaceCorp volunteer in her tiny Berber village with no running water and electricity, as well hearing about exciting projects by US Fulbright scholars.



OneWorld Now! students hiking in High Atlas Mountains in Morocco

"Morocco changed me in ways I never imagined! I long to travel more than ever, I am more comfortable in unfamiliar situations and I gathered in this time valuable life experiences to draw from in the future." —Mike



OneWorld Now! students at Chella, with their Morocco peers from the Yes Morocco program who are preparing to visit the United States

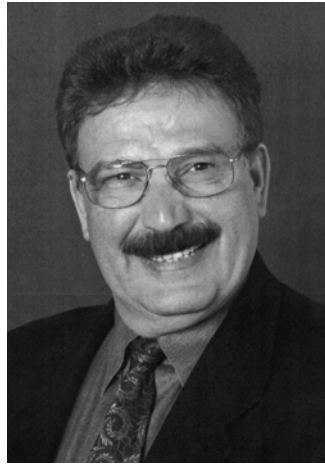
The OneWorld Now! trip coincided with that from the University of Washington sponsored by the Center for the History of Ideas, which provided for enriching interaction between the high school and university students.

All students on the OneWorld Now! Morocco trip received full scholarships through OWN. As Kristin Hayden reported: "It was a life-changing experience for each of them and they have returned to Seattle with a passion to continue seeking out travel and international educational opportunities." The Middle East Center partners with OWN to provide educational opportunities for its students. For more information about OneWorld Now!, contact the organization at: 206-223-7703, or visit: www.oneworld-now.org.

HUSSEIN M. ELKHAFIFI: *New Faculty Member* *Specializing in Arabic Language Instruction*

HUSSEIN ELKHAFIFI joins the faculty of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, UW, this fall as an Assistant Professor of Arabic.

Elkhafaifi brings to the position an extensive background in the teaching of Arabic. He has taught Arabic language: elementary through advanced, as well as Arabic linguistics at the University of Utah and the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include teaching Arabic as a foreign language; teacher training, advanced Arabic composition and conversation, listening



Hussein Elkhafaifi

comprehension, learning strategies; and language policy and language

planning. He has conducted workshops on “Teaching Listening Comprehension Skills in the Arabic Classroom” at Middlebury College in 2003; and “Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Workshop” at Al-Akhawayn University, Morocco in 2002. An active member of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic and an ACTFL/LTI (language Testing International) Certified oral proficiency tester in Arabic, he brings a comprehensive understanding of the strategies of proficiency language teaching, and evaluation. ❧

KRISTEN A. STILT *Islamic Law Specialist Joins Law School Faculty*

KRISTEN STILT joins Law School faculty this fall as an Assistant Professor in the field of international and comparative law. She will teach courses related to immigration, refugee law, human rights, comparative law, and Islamic law. Her specialty and main area of research and writing is Islamic law, in its classical formulations and contemporary applications.

Prior to her arrival at the University of Washington, she was a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University in the area of Islamic legal history, and will be awarded her Ph.D. this fall from the Department of History and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard. In 2003-04 she was a Visiting Researcher at the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School. Before entering the Ph.D.



Kristen Stilt

program at Harvard, Stilt was in private practice at the international law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen, and Hamilton in the Washington, D.C. and Moscow, Russia offices. Her work at Cleary Gottlieb included representing the State of Kuwait before the United Nations Compensation Commission and several significant *pro bono* projects

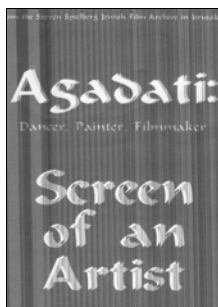
in the areas of refugee and human rights law. She worked at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Moscow for several months, conducting interviews with Afghan refugees who were seeking asylum in Russia.

Stilt holds a J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law. *Law*. She is a two-time Fulbright Grant recipient: a Fulbright IIE grant for Arabic language study in Kuwait in 1989-1990 and a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Grant for research in Egypt and England in 2000-2001. While living in Egypt, she was a co-founder of the first companion animal shelter and advocacy organization, the Society for the Protection of Animal Rights in Egypt, and is a Board Member of that charity. She speaks Egyptian Arabic and has attained a level of near-proficiency in classical and modern standard Arabic. ❧

NEW VIDEO RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER

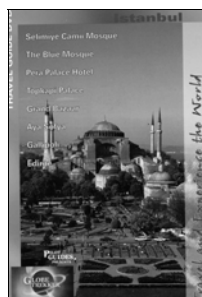
Resources may be borrowed free of charge for instructors and educators to use in their classrooms. Contact the Middle East Center by telephone (206)543-4227 or by email : <fhecker@u.washington.edu>. The Center also publishes a video guide of its holdings, available free upon request, or view our webpage at <http://jsis.artsci.washington.edu/programs/mideast/vidlib.htm>

Agadati: Screen of an Artist. 37 min., 1930s/1997. Baruch Agadati was a dancer, painter, and filmmaker best known for having capture on film the flavor and excitement of life in Tel Aviv 1930s. His work is captured in this documentary.

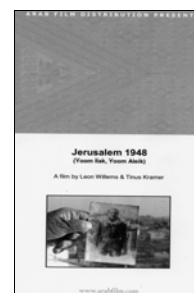


The Illegals. 56 min. Author Meyer Levin's joined the Haganah's European underground after WWII, and recorded on film the story of the "Aliyah Bet," the clandestine movement of Holocaust survivors to Palestine

Istanbul: City Guide/Globe Trekker. 2004, 60 min., DVD. An overview of Istanbul and environs including the Selimiye Camii Mosque, the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sofia, Gallipoli, and Edirne. Produced by Pilot Guides.



Written and directed by Leon Willems and Tinus Kramer.



Land of Promise, 57 min. , 1935. This historically important film was produced to showcase Jewish Palestine to the world in the early 30s and remains a spectacular visual record of the commerce and culture of the period.



The Films of Yaacov Ben Dov: Father of the Hebrew Cinema. 30 min., 1996. This film is a treasure trove of Jewish life in Palestine from 1917-33, filmed by Yaacov Ben Dov, a founder of the Israeli cinema. Contains unique historical footage.



Jerusalem: 1948 (Yoom Ilak, Yoom Aleik). 45 min., 1998. This video covers the events in Jerusalem and the major villages to the south and west in the period between the 1947 UN Partition Resolution and the first truce between the Arab and Israeli armed forces in June 1948.

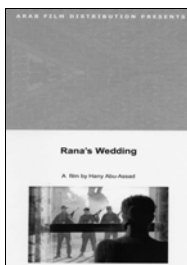
Maghreb: Back in Middle Ages, 30 min., 2003. A brief look at the city of Fez. A Flying Monk Film.

Maghreb: Imperial Cities. 50 min., 2003. An historical overview of the cities of Rabat, Sale, Volubilis, Moulay Idris, and

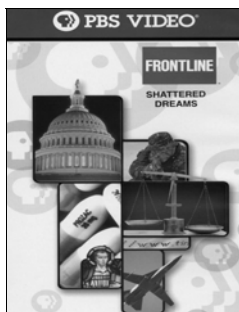
NEW VIDEO RESOURCES (Continued)

Meknes. A Flying Monk Film.

Rana's Wedding. 86 min., 2002. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is seen through the eyes of a young woman, who, with only ten hours to marry, must negotiate her way around road blocks, soldiers, stone throwers, and overworked officials. Directed by Hany Abu-Assad. Arabic with English subtitles.



Shattered Dreams. 2003, 120 min. PBS Frontline Program. In 2000 Israeli/Palestinian peace negotiations were on the brink of success, but then collapsed. This program examines what went wrong.



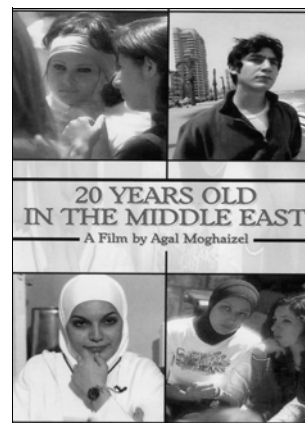
VIDEO REVIEW

Twenty Years Old in the Middle East

Filmed two months after the fall of Baghdad, the documentary film *20 Years Old in the Middle East* features interviews with university and college students in Amman, Beirut, Damascus, and Tehran and focuses on their reactions to the war in Iraq and their general dismay at what they see as a colonial occupation of a Middle Eastern state. The students express their reactions not in ideological terms, either of pan-Arab nationalism or of Islamicism, but by reference to the impact that successive regional wars have had on their own lives and families and by reference to their personal experiences of surveillance and regulation by domestic political regimes. As the students weigh the values and ideals of democracy and liberalism against their experiences growing up, what stands out is their skepticism that peace can be forged through war, or freedom secured through occupation.

From an Iranian theology student who plays in a heavy metal band, to a young Syrian photo journalist who struggles to bring photographs of poverty into print, and from a Palestinian electronics student unable to return to his family in Jerusalem to a young Jordanian student who tours Europe and the Middle East with a musical ensemble in her semester breaks, the people interviewed in the film speak consciously and critically to the audience about the way they see themselves and how they think the world perceives them. The film's images of modern, urban lifestyles challenge many of the representations of contemporary Arab life which the students critique.

The students speak openly about their personal aspirations and about their anxieties that their locations in the contemporary world constrains their real opportunities. The film's impact emerges in its ability to speak to and challenge viewers' expectations of radical and fundamental difference, without offering instead a simple identification with the speakers. As they speak into the camera addressing the viewer, the students interviewed in this film offer the perspective that engagement, not disassociation, is both the cause of and the solution to contemporary political and cultural conflicts.



20 Years Old in the Middle East (2003) directed by Agal Moghaizel: First Run/ Icarus Films. Run time 50 min. Available for classroom use from the Middle East Center Resource Center.

Reviewed by Cabeiri Robinson, Assistant Professor, International Studies, Jackson School of International Studies

Teachers Learn about the Environment at the Jackson School Summer Seminar for Educators



Kim Rakow Bernier, Outreach Director, Facing the Future: People and the Planet, leads a session on environmental challenges for the 21st century at the annual Jackson School Seminar, June 29-30. Here she demonstrates fisheries depletion by having teachers "fish" for M&Ms at ocean soup bowls placed at the center of each table.

The Middle East Center Newsletter

EDITOR

Felicia J. Hecker

ADDRESS

Middle East Center
Box 353650
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195 USA

TELEPHONE

206-543-4227

FAX

206-685-0668

E-MAIL

mecuw@u.washington.edu
[http://jsis.artsci.washington.edu/
programs/mideast/index.htm](http://jsis.artsci.washington.edu/programs/mideast/index.htm)

MIDDLE EAST CENTER
225 Thomson Hall, Box 353650
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3650
USA

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 62

INSERT BARCODE 67-0774

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED