

all roads film Project



2007 All Roads Photography Program Award Winner

Oded Balilty (Israel)

Along the Lines



Bio:

Oded Balilty, an Associated Press photographer, was born in Jerusalem in 1979. In 1998 he served as a photographer for the Israeli Defense Forces *Bamahane* magazine. He began his career as a photographer for the ZOOM 77 agency and the daily paper *Yedioth Ahronot*. In 2002, at the peak of the Israeli-Palestinian intifada, he began working for the Associated Press in Jerusalem. In addition to Israeli-Palestinian issues, Balilty has covered the 2003 NATO Summit in Istanbul, the 2004 elections in Ukraine, and the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

Personal Essay:

Eight-meter-high concrete walls. The concept of a protective fence seems simple, but the long-term effect on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has yet to be determined. The photographs in this project are a record of this time — the process of separation and removal taking place between two peoples. I chose to present the pictures in black and white because the wall seemed to me in essence “black and white,” a physical stark reality, a scar cutting through the landscape, separating the Palestinians on one side, Israelis on the other. But shades of gray remain. Every Friday, in the village of Bil’in, Palestinians and Israelis join forces protesting the construction of the wall, desperately trying to cling to the hope of coexistence, of a brighter future for both peoples, of bringing the colors back. Maybe, one day, what is left of the barrier will become a memorial wall — commemorating a harsh, separate existence and symbolizing the mistakes of the past.

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