



# Issa's House

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**Production** Tomer Heymann for Heymann Brothers Films  
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**Production countries** Les Films du Poisson | Ahmad Amro  
**Co-production country** France, Palestine

**Production stage** In Production  
**Lengths** 52' & 100'

**Total budget** € 1.195.947  
**Amount still requested** € 1.016.602

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**Issa Amro and his non-violent activists spend their days guarding a Palestinian-owned home in Hebron. Issa's House gives voice to their stories of solidarity in the face of insurmountable oppression.**

## Synopsis

Issa Amro, a Palestinian civil rights activist, has dedicated his life to protecting a house in Hebron. He guards the home day and night alongside a group of fellow activists. Issa, once named "human rights defender of the year in Palestine" by the UN, is a practitioner of non-violent resistance. He is also the founder of Youth Against Settlements (YAS), an organization that advocates against the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. In *Issa's House*, filmmaker Tomer Heymann is granted unprecedented access to Issa and YAS—not just as a documentarian, but as a friend in unity.

The house that Issa and YAS protect is one of the last Palestinian-owned properties in the Israeli-controlled, H2 section of Hebron nearest to Shuhada Street in the Old City. Also known as "Apartheid Street" by Palestinians, Shuhada Street is the main road leading to the Tomb of the Patriarchs and was once a bustling gathering place for the Hebron region. After decades of political unrest, the street is now permanently closed to Palestinians.

*Issa's House* documents and reveals the perpetual violence that Issa and the group face. Verbal and physical assault by Settlers is a regular occurrence, as is the Israeli military's indisputably unequal treatment of Palestinians and the Settlers that occupy their land. The group is constantly fearful that Settlers will break into the property to vandalize and terrorize it, or even burn the house down.

Even amidst all these threats, the warm atmosphere of solidarity in *Issa's House* remains strong. The people of the group share their personal histories with Heymann. Ahmad tells of the hardships his relationship faced because of military checkpoints. Football commentator Muhanned, charming and funny, shares his dreams of seeing the sea. Merfat brings her children to the house almost daily and helps make the property inhabitable. Wijdan—a woman with a tragic connection to the area—shares her devotion to non-violent resistance.

The attacks to the home by Settlers intensify in parallel to the political threat to democracy in Israel. Against the backdrop of the worsening situation, Issa and the YAS members adhere strictly to their practice of non-violent resistance. Issa believes that non-violent resistance is the only way Palestinians will ever achieve their goals. At a critical juncture in history, with a new extreme right-wing government in power in Israel, Issa and his brave group pose an existential threat to the entire narrative of the occupation.