

**For Immediate Release
MEDIA ADVISORY**



Jennifer Spoerri (415) 248-3950, ext. 122

New Documentary Takes Viewers to the Heart of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict at an Historic Time

Occupied Minds—A Palestinian-Israeli Journey Beyond Hope and Despair

Airs June 24th on Link TV at 8 PM, ET

(DIRECTV Ch. 375, DISH Network Ch. 9410 and Select PBS Stations Nationwide)

San Francisco, CA (May 27, 2005)—After four years of stalled peace efforts in the Middle East, all eyes are on the region this summer as two watershed events—the Palestinian parliamentary election and Israeli pull-out from Gaza—will determine whether peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is imminent or doomed to remain elusive. A new Link TV documentary, *Occupied Minds: A Palestinian-Israeli Journey Beyond Hope and Despair* takes viewers to ground zero of the dispute—the volatile streets of Gaza and Jerusalem—to hear the voices of both sides of the conflict. This controversial and timely new film airs June 24th on Link TV at 8 PM/ET.

An emotional and intensely personal odyssey through the hot spots of the current conflict, *Occupied Minds* is the story of two journalists, Jamal Dajani, a Palestinian-American and David Michaelis, an Israeli, who journey to Jerusalem to explore the possibilities of peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Dajani and Michaelis grew up in Jerusalem just a few miles apart from one another—but in reality, worlds apart. Both have extensive and complex ties to their homeland. Jamal traces his family history in Jerusalem back to the 7th century, while David was born in Jerusalem to parents who had emigrated from Germany in the 1920's to escape the growing anti-Semitism there.

In their San Francisco offices, the two men collaborate on the 2005 Peabody Award-winning daily newscast *MOSAIC: World News from the Middle East*. *MOSAIC* is broadcast on Link TV, the nation's leading network presenting global news, current affairs and culture. After four years of monitoring daily news reports from more than 30 Middle Eastern broadcasters and watching the escalation of hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians with increasing alarm, the two decided to combine their personal experiences and expertise to examine the real possibilities for peace in the Middle East. According to Mr. Dajani, "*Occupied Minds* captures both the physical and mental occupation that Palestinians and Israelis on the front line experience daily through their fears, apprehension and suspicion. It is not the discourse or narrative of foreign

journalists and pundits with no connection to the land or the people. Rather, it IS the story of the land and its people.” Adds Mr. Michaelis, “we hope our film will decode for American viewers the true narratives of the people—narratives hiding behind the simplistic slogans of Israeli and Palestinian politicians that are circulated widely in the media.”

Far from the safe shores of San Francisco, Dajani and Michaelis explore the possibilities of lasting peace in the Middle East by interviewing leading activists, government officials and civilians on both sides of the conflict. Among the myriad of voices we hear are: a wanted Palestinian gunman, an Israeli soldier who is breaking the silence about his service in the Occupied Territories, an Israeli surgeon who lost his eyesight in a suicide bombing, an Israeli mother who lost her son in the conflict, and a Palestinian female activist who lost her cousin. One man, a leading gunman for the Palestinian Intifada who lost his mother, brother and friends in the fighting, reflects upon the cumulative effect of daily indignities and suffering: “A person is burned on the inside and his life closes in on him... All he wants to do is explode.” When asked about the possibility of Israelis and Palestinians coexisting peacefully, the blinded Israeli doctor says: “We must differentiate between what is needed and what is real. In reality, we’re [Palestinians and Israelis] not so good.”

As Dajani and Michaelis make their way through the many worlds that make up contemporary Israel and Palestine, they struggle to find lasting solutions to what many see as a never-ending conflict.

Produced & Directed By: Jamal Dajani & David Michaelis. A LINK TV Original Production

For the more information or to view a **9 minute trailer**, go to www.linktv.org/occupiedminds

About Link TV:

Link TV is a non-commercial television network available in more than 26 million U.S. homes on DIRECTV channel 375 and Dish Network channel 9410. The 24-hour programming is a mix of documentaries, international news, foreign films and the best of World Music. Select Link TV programs are streamed on the Internet at www.linktv.org. Link TV is operated by Link Media, Inc., a California non-profit organization, with production studios in San Francisco, New York and Washington, DC. The network is funded by viewer contributions and grants from more than 25 foundations, including the Ford Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Markle Foundation, Open Society Institute, Otto Haas Charitable Trust, Paul Allen Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Shei’rah Foundation, Surdna Foundation, Tides Foundation, Wallace Global Fund, and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

For the complete program schedule and Internet streaming, go to www.linktv.org