WORLD ISSUES

DOCUMENTARY 45 | 30 MIN.







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88 4853 01 x 45 min. Arabic, English, German, Spanish

86 4862 01 x 30 min. Arabic, English, Spanish, Subtitles in Portuguese

86 4863 01 x 30 min. Arabic, English, German, Spanish

Between War and Peace – Getting by in Eastern Ukraine

88 4853, 01 x 45 min.

The bloody fighting in eastern Ukraine may have died down, but there is no reason to regard the conflict as over. In spite the peace deal signed in Minsk in February, the ceasefire is fragile. Reporter Irene Langemann meets people from the city of Dnipropetrovsk, which is only 200km away from the war zones. The conflict in Ukraine has long dominated people's lives here and irrevocably changed their way of thinking. Julia Segeda, a successful lawyer, and her husband have transformed their office into a collection point for relief supplies. Each week, the couple goes to the front line to deliver supplies directly to the soldiers there. Young mother Natalia Bornjakowa and her children had to flee from the Donetsk region and are happy to be safe, but they will never forget what they went through. Everyone wants peace and a better future for their children. But the tense situation in eastern Ukraine and their distrust of Russia still allows them no respite.

#MyEscape HD

86 4862, 01 x 30 min.

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled to Germany, enduring harrowing experiences along the way. Many have recorded their dramatic stories themselves in video on their cell phones, without the help of filmmakers or news teams. For most refugees, the cell phone is an indispensable tool in the organization of their escape. At the same time, they use their phones to store memories of home and to document the stations of their long and dangerous journeys. Social networks are buzzing with clips that tell of such flights. The documentary #MyEscape has gathered together some of these stories: the refugees' videos tell of their homelands, their departure and the different stages of their escape. The refugees also comment on their video footage. The end result is an impressive, first-hand account of people forced to leave their homes and go in search of safety.

Held Captive by IS – A Young Yazidi Woman's Ordeal

86 4863, 01 x 30 min.

Faten is a member of the Yazidi religious sect, one of Iraq's oldest minorities and a target of Islamic State persecution. The young woman was among thousands of Yazidi held captive in Iraq by IS. For 100 days she was repeatedly raped, beaten and otherwise abused until she managed to escape. Then Faten was allowed to settle in Germany thanks to a special program launched by the state of Baden-Württemberg to help victims of sexual violence in northern Iraq and Syria. She is still haunted by her traumatic experiences and worries constantly about her parents and brother, whose whereabouts are unknown.

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After the Escape – Finding a Home in a Foreign Land

Judith Kerr, Aeham Ahmad, Saša Stanišić, Nneka Egbuna and Antonio Skármeta come from four different continents and have one thing in common: They all fled war, hardship or persecution and started over in a new and unfamiliar place. Culture became their key to integration. Books, films and music helped pave the way.

"Isn't it wonderful to be a refugee?" ten-year-old Judith Kerr shouted across the rooftops of Paris in 1934. She and her family had fled Nazi Germany one year earlier. Escape was a great adventure for her, and her parents didn't let her sense their fear. Today, the world-famous writer ("When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit") lives in London and says: "For me, England was my home at the end of the war. But it wasn't for my parents. They never belonged anywhere." It's a story typical of many refugee families.

Aeham Ahmad, "the pianist amid the rubble" of the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, keeps wondering why he of all people survived while so many others didn't. Saša Stanišić has become a renowned German-language author after fleeing the Bosnian War in 1992 at the age of 14. Musician Nneka Egbuna who fled the violence in her family in Nigeria as a teenager, lives in Lagos, Hamburg and Paris but isn't truly at home anyplace – "home" to her is a feeling. Author Antonio Skármeta was no longer allowed to work at home in Chile after Augusto Pinochet's coup d'etat in 1973, and lived in exile in West Germany.