

SUICIDE KILLERS

The latest film Pierre Rehov is working on.

With the 9 / 11 destruction of the World Trade Centre, the world discovered a new form of warfare: the use of fanatical human beings as tactical weapons. And since then the phenomenon of the « Islamic kamikazes » has been spreading throughout the world

Yet, Israel had already been suffering from that terrifying phenomenon for a long time.

“Suicide Killers” seeks to answer crucial questions: how can the phenomenon be explained, how can human beings strap an explosive belt around their bodies, walk into a place full of civilians and, in cold blood, detonate the bomb they carry? And how do those who survive such terrorist attacks cope with the deep trauma they have suffered, unable to forget the severed heads of the killers or their smiling faces just before they detonated the bomb?

“Suicide Killers” has been leading an in-depth inquiry into the subject, interviewing both survivors of suicide bombings and would-be suicide bombers now jailed in Israeli prisons or jailed terrorists who set up suicide bombings. Prominent experts in sociology, psychology, religion, the law and also sexuality give their views on the phenomenon.

Families of „martyrs%” have been interviewed in Gaza, a violent place where nationalistic and religious pride, sheer hatred of anyone Jewish, have come to supersede regular feelings.

The psychopathology of the perpetrators, regarded as „freedom fighters%” and “martyrs” is thus unravelled in a thriller approach.

The film goes far beyond the shallow view that the „martyrs%” are „victims%” left without any choice.

They are the products of their male-oriented society, of a religion that relegates women to being second-class citizens. And they follow in the steps of the period of the Assassins when young men were already offered to gain Paradise in exchange for murders in this world.

It becomes clear the overwhelming preoccupation of the young men who live in

a stifling society with very strict sexual codes and are promised 72 virgins if they die as martyrs is, indeed, sex.

Another aspect is the clash of civilisations witnessed here with the contrast of the freedom women enjoy in Israel and the severe restrictions they live under in countries that live by Islamic rule.