Beyond the walls (MeAchorei Hasorragim)

Uri Barabash - 1984

1. What is the film plot? 3-5 sentences.

The story takes place in an high-security block of an Israeli prison . In the first scene of the movie we meet one of the two main character of this story Uri, the Jewish leader of the jail. The other important character of this story is Issam, a terrorist, imprisoned for political crimes, he is the leader of the Palestinian people in the jail. During the film, Hoffman a jewish prisoner was killed by the Palestinian and the jewish leader and his cell mate decide to assault the Palestinian cell during the night. After that fact the leader of the prison a rude man, decide to remove the previleges of the prisoner and leave the two leader of the opposite group in the insulation cells. To discover the killer the chief of the prison blackmail a jew guy (Doron) but for the stress he decide to commit suicide. After that fact the whole prisoners decide to start an hunger strike. The end of the film will not solve this situation remain unresolved.

2. Why did Doron hang himself?

After the night assault of the Palestinian's cell, the chief of the prison blackmail him. During the film he was raped by a group of Jewish people so the chief decided to move him in the Palestinian's cell, the night that the Palestinians decide the murder Hoffman was there. The chief blackmail him to put him back to the cell where he was raped. I think that he don't want to make in trouble Issam because he protected him and rather to back in the other cell he hang himself.

3. What is the film's Theme?

The movie develop the conflict between Palestinians and Jewish people in Israeli. Iconic was the dialogue during the isolation time where Uri and Issam talk about the violence perpetrated by their factions against the other one, while they were talking, they realized that were the same. There is no difference between violence and death, after that dialogue in fact they decided to cooperate for the hunger strike, it was a sort of peace treaty.

4. How do you understand the ending of the film?

The end of the film was really impactful, the chief decided to release Issam in order to stop the hunger strike but he decided to stay in prison for the sake of the reason of their hunger strike. The sequence was divided in two part, the first when Uri encourages him to leave the jail to see his wife and children and the second when he decided to stay in prison. This part of sequence was really significant for me, all the prisoners started to sing the song made by Shlomo the "nightingale" for the festival. This song speaks about the desire of liberty and that make me think that in jail they are all equals while they are dreaming liberty.