

FOR LIFE

Türkiye | 2026 | 88 min | Observational Documentary

TAGLINE

The story of Palestinian women leading extraordinary lives in pursuit of an ordinary one.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

For over twenty years, Hind has lived in a marriage shaped by separation and solitude. Her husband, Ramadan, is serving a life sentence in an Israeli prison. Their rare visits take place in a room divided by a glass partition, limited to brief moments where physical contact is impossible. Despite everything, Hind remains determined to realize her desire to become a mother. Inspired by the secret methods developed by some prisoners' wives, she steps into an extremely fragile and risky process: to become a mother through IVF, she must secretly smuggle her husband's sperm out of prison. Her intimate journey intersects with the stories of other prisoners' wives who share the same desire, revealing a space of collective solidarity. In lives shaped under occupation, this ordinary desire gradually transforms into an extraordinary act of resistance.

LONG SYNOPSIS

For more than twenty years, Hind's life has been shaped by separation and waiting. Her husband, Ramadan, is serving a life sentence in an Israeli prison, where visits take place behind glass, without physical contact. Yet distance cannot extinguish her desire to become a mother.

While preparing a manuscript her husband wrote in prison, Hind is confronted with an event that unsettles her sense of time and solitude. Faced with the weight of absence, she decides to pursue the dream she has carried for years — to have a child.

Despite strict control, some prisoners' wives have developed secret methods to smuggle their husbands' sperm out of prison, enabling conception through IVF. Determined to attempt this fragile process, Hind embarks on a path shaped by secrecy, risk, and hope.

Her journey intersects with other women who share the same desire, forming a quiet space of solidarity. Through these encounters, the film reveals how life unfolds under conditions of political control.

With a restrained observational approach, unfolding in real time and silence, the film approaches motherhood as an experience shaped by absence and power, where the body becomes a site of memory and resistance.

CREDITS

Participants

Hind Mashahra, Fathia Safadi, Sanaa Daqqa, Macd Hadnawi

Crew

Director: Ahmet Seven

Producer: Aslihan Eker Çakmak

Production Coordinator: Yalçın Aka

Creative Consultant: Kürşat Üresin

Cinematography: Latifa Abdel Latif, Fuad Hindieh

Editing: Ahmet Seven, Omar Nabil

Post-Production: Postgarden

Field Producer: Vajd Ghosheh

Assistant Producer: Aya Abutaer

Translator: Fatema Alkabir

Impact Producer: Choylin Mok

Poster Design: Ersin İleri

Trailer: Cihat Keten

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was drawn to this story not for its political context, but for the quiet determination of the women at its center. Like women everywhere, the wives of Palestinian prisoners dream of motherhood, yet pursuing this ordinary desire comes at an extraordinary cost.

The film became possible through trust. As a male director, accessing such intimate experiences required time, patience, and presence. For a long period, I chose not to turn on the camera, allowing relationships to develop naturally until I was no longer perceived as an outsider.

I followed Hind over several years, respecting the rhythm of her life and allowing events to unfold on their own terms. I did not want to turn her into a symbol, but to remain close to her lived reality — the waiting, repeated attempts, moments of hope, and the quiet resolve required simply to continue. The film emerged from this shared time.

An observational approach was central to the film's form. I avoided interviews, voice-over, and music, allowing meaning to arise from actions, silences, and lived moments. Working with a small crew in the West Bank and East Jerusalem required constant adaptation to restrictions and uncertainty, reinforcing the film's restrained and intimate language.

In FOR LIFE, motherhood is not framed as an achievement, but as a fragile hope shaped by absence and control. Rather than offering answers, the film invites the audience into a space of witnessing — an experience that extends beyond the frame.

BIOGRAPHY

Ahmet Seven (b. 1976, Erzurum) is a Turkish filmmaker and documentary director. He studied Sociology at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University in Istanbul.

He began his career with photo-documentary work before moving into television, where he worked as a producer and director on socially oriented programs. He later continued in documentary filmmaking with international and national media institutions, including Al Jazeera Media Network and TRT.

In recent years, Seven has focused on independent documentary cinema, developing a minimalist observational style shaped by duration, silence, and human presence. His work explores the intersection of intimate lives and broader political structures.

His latest film, FOR LIFE (Ömür Boyu), follows a Palestinian woman navigating love, distance, and motherhood under conditions of separation.

CONTACT

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