Roger Waters on 9_11_gaza_jewish_lobby

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> Roger Waters describes witnessing apartheid conditions in the West Bank, including segregated roads for Jewish and Arab citizens, and explains his commitment to advocating for Palestinian equal rights. He discusses the backlash he has faced from pro-Israel lobbies for speaking out on these issues.

SAŽETAK

In this talk, Roger Waters recounts his firsthand observations of the West Bank, where he witnessed what he describes as an apartheid system. He recalls driving on a road reserved exclusively for Jewish citizens, an experience that shocked him into recognizing the systemic discrimination faced by Arab Palestinians. Waters compares the segregation to hypothetical racial restrictions in America, emphasizing the absurdity and injustice of such policies. Following these visits, he made a personal commitment to advocate publicly for equal human rights for Palestinians and Jewish Israelis alike. Waters explains that his vocal advocacy has provoked significant opposition, particularly from pro-Israel lobbying groups in America, who have attempted to undermine his career. Despite this pressure, he asserts that he continues to speak out against what he views as an unjust apartheid system.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

- Waters witnessed segregated road access in the West Bank where Arab Palestinians were prohibited from using roads designated for Jewish citizens.
- He compares the system to hypothetical racial segregation in the United States, using the example of I-95 access being restricted by religion, to illustrate the absurdity of such policies.
- Waters made a personal commitment to advocate for equal human rights between Palestinian Arabs and Jewish Israelis in the region between the Jordan River and the sea.
- He emphasizes that equality and the elimination of apartheid systems are essential moral imperatives for fostering kindness and coexistence.

> Waters has faced significant opposition and career sabotage attempts from pro-Israel lobbying groups in America following his public advocacy, but states he continues to fight back.

> His approach to advocacy is framed as non-violent—he clarifies he is not asking anyone to kill anyone, but rather demanding equal rights and the end of systemic discrimination.

ČLANAK

Witnessing Apartheid in the West Bank

I went to the West Bank and saw the apartheid firsthand. I returned two years later and drove all over the region with UNRWA and a woman from UNRWA named Allegra Pacheco. I'll never forget one day when we were driving north towards Jenin. I remarked that at least they had nice roads—it was a nice two-lane blacktop tarmac road. Allegra looked at me as if I was being naive and said, "Yeah, if you're Jewish." I asked what she meant. She explained that you're not allowed to drive on that road unless you're Jewish.

I was incredulous. I tried to picture it in America—driving to Pennsylvania or Philadelphia and getting on I-95, only to be told, "You're a Christian, aren't you? If you're not, you can't use this road." That would be absurd. But that's the reality there. It's a completely apartheid society. If you're an Arab, you're not allowed on the road. I didn't believe it at first, but I did after experiencing it myself. What I saw was hell on earth. They've created hell on earth.

Commitment to Equal Rights

During that visit and the subsequent visits I made, I decided that I would be vocal and do anything I could to help my Palestinian brothers and sisters achieve **equal human rights** with their Jewish brothers and sisters between the Jordan River and the sea. I'm not asking anyone to kill anyone. But you have to have equality. You cannot allow apartheid societies to exist in the world. That is not a way to encourage one another to be kind, in my view.

Speaking Out and Facing Opposition

When you witness something like that—when you're stunned by it, moved by it, and outraged by it—you decide to talk about it immediately. I was moved to speak right away. The response I received, however, was significant. The Israeli lobby in America particularly were not pleased. Since that time, they have done everything they can to destroy my career. They have failed. I fight back.

#West Bank apartheid system #Palestinian rights advocacy #Israeli-Palestinian conflict #Segregation and discrimination #Political activism and free speech #Equal human rights

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