



The Gatekeepers

Autumn
Season
2013

Release: 2012

Cert (UK): 15

Language: Hebrew with English sub-titles

Runtime: 101 mins

Director: Droh Moreh



This documentary features interviews with six former chiefs of the Israeli internal security agency, Shin Bet. *'The Gatekeepers'* delivers a detailed accounting of their battle-hardened reflections. The film opens with aerial surveillance footage laying out the almost daily decision-making dilemmas that these men faced - a vehicle driving through a built-up area is there in

the crosshairs. The order to fire could take out an enemy terrorist, but who else is travelling with them? Innocent individuals who'll also perish? What about passers-by on the street? How many ordinary families could suffer in the collateral damage of a single word? How do you face, survive and reconcile the stark consequences of any would-be so-called surgical strike?

Life can be snuffed out in an instant, comes the message from these old warriors - but memories linger for years, decades even.

They offer a united front speaking against the ineptitude and indifference of various Israeli prime ministers. They claim these leaders had little understanding of the pain and anger of the one million Palestinians who came under Israeli control following the Six-Day War. Since then there has been nothing but mutual distrust, violence, and countless failed negotiations and treaties. The terrorist attacks on Israel and the high tech killings of Palestinians provide continuing evidence that things have not changed and, as the former leaders of Shin Bet point out, are getting worse.

"We wanted security and got more terrorism," muses former naval officer Ami Ayalon. *"We win every battle but lose the war."* In giving such a far-reaching awareness into how such a situation has arisen, Moreh has directed a valuable and insightful work.

The film was nominated for the Best Documentary at the Oscars this year.

