

# ملفات إقرث

حاجز 303 جواهر شوفاني، وردة اسبيت، جهاد سبيت

# 360°

# THE IQRIT FILES

**CHECKPOINT 303  
JAWAHER SHOFANI  
WARDEH SBEIT  
JIHAD SBEIT**





- 
1. أهلاً فيكو بإقرث 1:44 WELCOME TO IQRIT
  2. بسنة 1948 5:21 IN 1948
  3. بلادي 4:35 MY HOMELAND
  4. يا مهاجرين إرجعوا 4:04 COME BACK HOME, ALL REFUGEES
  5. هوا شمالي 4:32 NORTHERN WIND
  6. إحنا نوبنا ع السفر 3:29 WE INTEND TO DEPART
  7. نجمة الصبح 4:06 MORNING STAR
  8. عتابا 2:40 A'ATABA
  9. الطريق إلى القدس 2:24 ROAD TO JERUSALEM
  10. طلعت راس الجبل 4:03 I CLIMBED THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN
  11. ركبوا خيلهن 3:55 THEY RODE THEIR HORSES
  12. العودة 1:24 RETURN BACK HOME
  13. راجعين لإقرث 3:06 RETURN TO IQRIT

SUPPORTED BY THE NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.  
 THANKS TO WALAA SBAIT AND ALL THE SUCCESSORS OF THE FORMER IQRIT POPULATION, WHO ARE  
 FIGHTING TO KEEP THEIR PRESENCE IN IQRIT IN SPITE OF CONSTANT ATTACKS FROM ISRAELI SOLDIERS.  
[WWW.CHECKPOINT303.COM](http://WWW.CHECKPOINT303.COM) • [KIRKELIG KULTURVERKSTED 2015](http://KIRKELIG.KULTURVERKSTED.2015) • [WWW.KKV.NO](http://WWW.KKV.NO)

FXCD 413







The voices were recorded among the ruins of Iqrit, August 2013: Martin Abrahamsen.

The programming, oud-recordings and final mixes: Checkpoint 303

Oud, bendir and sound design: SC Mocha

Keys and electric piano: Miss K SuShi

Mastering: Björn Engelmann, Cuttingroom, Stockholm.

Photos: Stig Indrebø and Berit Hunnestad

Cover design: Geir Henriksen - Blæst Design

Producer: SC Mocha and Erik Hillestad

Coproducer: Rim Banna



# 351

## **TALES THAT HAVE DROWNED IN THE ECHOES OF A EUROPEAN TRAGEDY. PERFORMED BY THREE NARRATIVE CHANTERS FROM THE UPPER GALILEE. ARRANGED AND PROGRAMMED BY THE MUSIC COLLECTIVE CHECKPOINT 303. DEDICATED TO THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES ALL OVER THE WORLD.**

Nakba ("The catastrophe") is the Arabic term for the expelling of the Palestinians from their towns and villages at the time of the proclamation of the state of Israel in 1948. At this time, somewhere between 360 and 412 Palestinian villages were evacuated by force and demolished or annexed. (The number depends on how we define a village). Somewhere between 520.000 (Israeli version) and 900.000 (Palestinian version) individuals became refugees and sought their shelters in camps in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, on the West Bank or within the borders of the state of Israel.

The Israeli narrative has traditionally been that the massive fleeing took place due to orders from Arab leaders, while Israeli leaders urged the Palestinians to stay. But historians have later revealed that Israeli military forces carried out large scale ethnical cleansing of Palestinians from towns and villages.

One of these villages was Iqrit in the Upper Galilee, close to the Lebanese border. In November 1948 the IDF ordered the 500 inhabitants to evacuate temporarily because of the strategic position of the village. The promise they were given was, that after a couple of weeks they would be allowed to move back. This promise was never kept. The empty village was closed by military forces until it was demolished by dynamite on Christmas Eve in 1951. The only building that was left untouched



# 9

was the church. Today we can still see the old roads that the descendants of the original population have cleared from stones and destroyed buildings. The old church at the top and the graveyard at the foot of the hill are still intact. People who originate from Iqrit still bury their dead ones there. Some youngsters from the third generation of the old Iqrit population have recently tried to reestablish a community in tents and small squats between the ruins. These actions have not been tolerated by the Israelis. People from Iqrit say: “They do not accept us living in Iqrit anymore, but we are still allowed to die there.”

Jawaher Shofani and Wardeh Sbeit have throughout their lives been ritual singers in the Upper Galilee, performing important and epic songs at funerals, baptisms and weddings. Jihad Sbeit is a poet. Wardeh and Jihad grew up in Iqrit. Jawaher in a neighboring town. They are all among the most important carriers of traditions in their generation of Palestinians. Jawaher Shofani took part in the record “Lullabies from the Axis of Evil” (KKV 2004) and in “A Time to Cry” (KKV 2010).

The Palestinian singer Rim Banna (from Nazareth in Galilee) has coproduced the recordings, assisting the singers in the selection of songs and poems to perform.

The music and sound art collective Checkpoint 303 processed the voices from Iqrit, weaving them into new electro-acoustic soundscapes. The recordings from the Iqrit singers are surrounded by field recordings and recycled audio snippets, often embedded in a variety of global urban beats, ranging from breakbeats to down tempo or experimental electronica. The immersive sonic atmosphere, nourished by the authenticity of the voices, delivers a message of beauty but also of the utter urgency of dealing with the ongoing injustice in Palestine.















Wardeh Sbeit and Jihad Sbeit are former inhabitants of Iqrit. Jawaher Shofani grew up in a neighboring town. They are all among the most important carriers of traditions in their generation of Palestinians.



## 1. أهلا فيكو بإقرث

كورس:  
”بكّفي بكّفي وعود  
على إقرث بدنا نعود”

صولو:  
”أهلا وسهلا فيكو ببيتكو بإقرث

وإسمع  
إسمع، إسمع، إسمع  
سامعين؟”

## 1. WELCOME TO IQRIT

SAMPLES INCLUDE SOUNDS AND AUDIO SNIPPETS FROM VARIOUS ARCHIVES AND ALTERNATIVE INTERNET MEDIA RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE ALTERNATIVE INFORMATION CENTER, ASHAMS INTERVIEWS, ETC. AND SAMPLES BY WALAA SBAIT.

Chanting protesters:

“We’ve had enough of all the promises  
We want to return back home to Iqrit”

Solo:

“You are welcome to your home in Iqrit.  
And listen, listen..... do you hear?”



## 2. بسنة 1948

الله يساعد الله يعين  
ع اللي صار بفلسطين  
سنة الثماتة وأربعين  
إجوا علينا هاجمين

والله يساعد الله يعين  
وع اللي صار بفلسطين  
وأطلعونا من البيوت  
حافيين وعريانين

الله يساعد والله يعين  
وع اللي صار بفلسطين

## 2. IN 1948

SAMPLES INCLUDE THE VOICE OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT READING EXCERPTS FROM THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND IN STARK AND IRONIC CONTRAST, RECORDINGS FROM THE VOTE ON THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 181 ON NOVEMBER 29TH, 1947, ON THE SO-CALLED PARTITION PLAN FOR PALESTINE, WHICH DENIED PALESTINIANS THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND LED TO THE NAKBA.

**TRADITIONAL PALESTINIAN, ADAPTED BY JAWAHER SHOFANI**

**VOCALS:** JAWAHER SHOFANI

May God help and give hands  
To what happened to Palestine  
In the year '48  
They came attacking us

May God help and give hands  
To what happened to Palestine  
They expelled us from our houses  
Bare footed and almost without clothes

May God help and give hands  
To what happened to Palestine



### 3. بلادي

يا بلادي ما أحلى بلادي  
ما بدها ألف عبادة  
فيها خلقت وفيها ربيت  
وفيها رّيت ولادي

بلادي عزيزة عليّ  
ما بنساها يا عينيّ  
رّبّي تفرّج عليها  
ونرجع ع كلّ البلاد

يا خسارة ع بلدنا  
وصارت كلها اليوم تراب  
يا خسارة ع هالبلاد  
كّنا مرتاحين فيها  
كّنا نجيب نرّبّي ولاد  
كلّ ولادها مش فيها

### 3. MY HOMELAND

SAMPLES INCLUDE THE VOICE OF 1921 NOBEL PRIZE WINNER ALBERT EINSTEIN PRAISING MAHATMA GANDHI'S NON-VIOLENCE POLITICS.

**TRADITIONAL PALESTINIAN, ADOPTED BY WARDEH SBEIT**

**VOCALS: WARDEH SBEIT**

My homeland, oh my beautiful homeland  
Would never need one thousand devotions  
In it I was born, in it I was raised  
In it I raised my children

My homeland is so dear to me  
I swear by my eyes, I will never forget my homeland  
God please dispel our sorrows  
And let them all return back to our homeland

Oh woo what a pity over my country  
Nowadays it became piles of earth  
What a pity over my country  
We were living in peace within it  
We were giving birth to our children  
Now all the children of our country are not inside of it



#### 4. يا مهاجرين إرجعوا

يا مهاجرين إرجعوا  
غالي الوطن غالي  
وأقرث صوتها إسمعوا  
صوت العتب عالي  
الغربة إتركوها وتعوا  
وأقرث حلوة مع العيشة الطبيعيّة

أنا يا ويلي شو بينفع بُكاي  
وَكُتْر عَتّي  
كشفتنا وراقنا  
طلعتْ سَوادي  
أوف وأنا الغريب  
وَدّوني بلادي

وأنا لأدقق زنودي بأيديّتي  
يا زيتي شَحّ  
وسراجي انطفى

#### 4. COME BACK HOME, ALL REFUGEES

SAMPLES INCLUDE THE VOICE OF THE WELSH RADIO JOURNALIST COLIN EDWARDS (PACIFICA RADIO ARCHIVES, 1972)

TRADITIONAL PALESTINIAN, ADAPTED BY JAWAHER SHOFANI

VOCALS: JAWAHER SHOFANI

Come back home, all refugees  
Our homeland is precious, so precious  
Hear the voice of Iqrit  
The blaming voice is loud  
Leave the voice of absence and come back home  
Iqrit is beautiful whenever we live naturally in it

Oh woo, what else gives benefit to me,  
but my tears which are plenty  
We uncover our papers  
and they were all black  
Oh woo, I am a stranger here  
Please take me back to my homeland

I will knock my wrists together  
Oh woo, my oil became less  
And my lamp has been extinguished







## 5. هوا شمالي

شمالي ويا هوا الديرة شمالي  
يا ع اللي بوابهن تفتح شمالي  
وأنا لأعوف هالديرة يا ويلي  
وأروح أسكن شمالي

يا بيوت إقرث كلها هدموها  
وحجارة إقرث يا ويلي بالوعر رموها

ويلعن أبو اسرائيل ع أبو اللي بنوها  
وع أبو اللي قالوا فيها من الذهب يا يابا

ونزل دمعي على خدي وما حلّ  
يا هجر إقرث من البلاد يا ويلي وما حلّ  
وأنا يا ويلي لأبكي على إقرث بكلّ ما حلّ  
وكلّ ما نسّم الغربي هواها يا يابا

جبل إقرث ويا عالي الثلوجي  
يا أحبابي فيك وعيوني تلوجي  
يا ويلي شيّدولي على حمرا وسروجي  
تتّي ألحقهم قبل الغياب يا يابا

يا ويلي وبحر يا محاوط الدنيا بلا ريح  
وشتا ما يصير بالدنيا بلا ريح  
ويا ويلي حكم لُقمان ما يشفي مجاريح  
إلا إقرث ترجع ع البلاد يابا



## 5. NORTHERN WIND

TRADITIONAL PALESTINIAN, ADAPTED BY JAWAHER SHOFANI

VOCALS: JAWAHER SHOFANI

Northern is the wind that blows over my home  
Over the people whose doors are open to the north  
I will be weary of my land  
Oh woo me, I will go and dwell in the north

Hey you, the houses of Iqrit which they demolished  
And the stones of Iqrit houses which they threw into the wild

I curse Israel father and I curse the father of the establisher of Israel  
And the father of whom that put their gold to build Israel Oh Yaba (my father)

My tears rolled down over my cheeks and didn't stop  
The evacuation of the Iqrit people had never happened all over the lands  
Oh woo, I will lament over Iqrit, and what happened to Iqrit  
Whenever the western wind blows, Oh Yaba (my father)

The mount of Iqrit with its high snow  
My beloved ones are gone and my eyes followed them  
Oh woo, prepare my red horse and saddle it  
To go after them before sunset, Oh Yaba (my father)

Oh woo, the sea surrounding the world is without wind  
Winter doesn't come over the world without winds  
Oh woo, the wisdom of Luqman can't cure the wounded people  
Until the people of Iqrit returns to their land, Oh Yaba (my father)

(Lukman is a character in the Arabic mythology who lived  
hundreds of years ago, and who is well known for his wisdom)

## 6. إحنأ نونأ ع السفر

إحنأ نونأ ع السفر  
وبخاطرک یا بلادنا  
وإحنأ نونأ ع الرحیل  
وبخاطرک یا بلادنا  
یا بلادنا یاللی جفّنا  
یحزّم علینا رجوعها

## 6. WE INTEND TO DEPART

SAMPLES INCLUDE THE VOICE OF NELSON MANDELA ADDRESSING CROWDS FROM THE BALCONY OF CAPE TOWN'S CITY HALL JUST AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM 27 YEARS IN PRISON ON FEBRUARY 11, 1990.

**TRADITIONAL PALESTINIAN, ADAPTED BY JAWAHER SHOFANI**

**VOCALS:** JAWAHER SHOFANI

We intend to depart  
Allow us to leave our homeland  
We intend to get away  
Allow us to leave our homeland

Our country which was cruel to us  
It is forbidden for us to return back to our homeland







## 7. نجمة الصبح

وأصبحت ببلاد ويا يمّا  
وأصبح خُلّتي ببلاد  
وأصبحت كِنّي ندى  
مرشوش ع بُغداد

وحياة يمّا مين زيتك  
لامون مع الكُباد  
أيا أهل إقرث إرجعوا  
اشتاقت لِكُن البلاد  
ويا حسرتي يا يمّا ما انظلم  
بين إخوتي غيري  
ولا علق يا يمّا ع الشراك  
طير سوى طيري

تصيت أنا يا يمّا هالشراك  
تا صيد الاتنين  
وُصِدْتُ المَعْمَم وراح مَنك  
مِكْحَل العين

ويا نجمة الصبح يا ويلي وفوق  
إقرث عَلّيتي  
ومن الأجاويد أخذتي ومنين  
كلها خَلّيتي  
وَنِذِرْ عَلّيتي يا يمّا إن رجعوا أهل إقرث على بيتي  
لأضويلهن شحم قلبي لو خلص زيتي



## 7. MORNING STAR

TRADITIONAL PALESTINIAN, ADAPTED BY JAWAHER SHOFANI

VOCALS: JAWAHER SHOFANI

I came to a new land, Yamma (mother)  
And my loved ones in another land  
I became as if I am drops of dew  
Scattered over Baghdad

Yamma (my mother) in the name of who have they ornamented you  
With lemon and naringe blossoms  
Oh you people of Iqrit, please come back home  
Your land is yearning for you  
Oh woo, my grief, Yamma (mother)  
No one has been put under injustice among all my brothers, but me  
And no one has been captured in the net, Yamma (mother), but me  
No bird has fallen in the trap, but my bird

I prepared my net, Yamma (mother)  
To capture the two  
And I hunted the wrong one  
But the one with the black eyes like coal had fled away

Oh woo, the morning star  
Who is raising high over Iqrit  
You took the most generous one  
And you left nothing  
I have a vow, Yamma (mother), when the people of Iqrit come back to my home  
I will light up my lamp and feed the flame with the grease of my heart  
If I don't have oil to feed my lamp

## 8. عتابا

أوووف  
حقوقى بالعدل بدي مارسها  
أرجع ع أرضى وأحرث مرسها  
لو حبال المشانق شدت مرسها  
نضالى والأمل ما يوم غاب

يابا يابا

## 8. A'ATABA

SAMPLES INCLUDE THE VOICE OF NELSON MANDELA TAKEN FROM HIS HISTORIC TOWN HALL INTERVIEW DURING HIS FIRST TRIP TO THE US, DAYS AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON IN 1990.

**WORDS:** JIHAD SBEIT

**VOCALS:** JIHAD SBEIT

Ooooooh

I will use my rights through justice

I will return back to my land and plough the earth

And even if they pull the ropes of the gallows

My struggle and my hope will never fade away

Yaba (my father)







9. الطريق إلى القدس

9. **ROAD TO JERUSALEM**

SAMPLES INCLUDE FIELD RECORDINGS AT THE QALANDIA MILITARY CHECKPOINT, ON THE WAY FROM RAMALLAH TO JERUSALEM (RECORDED IN JANUARY 2015 BY ERIK HILLESTAD)





## 10. طلعت راس الجبل

وطلعتُ يمّا راس الجبل  
تّني أوّدّعهن  
ولاقيتهن سافروا  
والريح طاوعهن

وندهتُ يا ريّس  
المركب ترجّعهن  
وهدول حبابي يا يمّا  
ومُفتاح القلب معهن

ويا عين حبيبي يا يمّا  
يحبّ النوم والتهلليل  
والعين الأخرى يا يمّا  
تحبّ الكحل والتدليل

ونامت عيونك يا يمّا  
وعين الله ما نامت  
وما عمر شدّة يا يمّا  
على مخلوق دامت

## 10. I CLIMBED THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

SAMPLES INCLUDE THE VOICE OF BOB MARLEY FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH GIL NOBLE IN 1980, VOCALS BY VL MONALISA AND FREESTYLE BY WALAA SBAIT.

TRADITIONAL PALESTINIAN, ADAPTED BY JAWAHER SHOFANI

VOCALS: JAWAHER SHOFANI

I climbed to the top of the mountain, Yamma (mother)  
In order to say farewell  
I found out that they had already travelled away  
And the wind was obeying them

I called the captain of the boat  
To let them turn back  
Those are my beloved ones, Yamma (mother)  
And the key of my heart is with them

Oh woo the eye of my beloved, Yamma (mother)  
He loves to sleep while I am singing lullaby  
And the other eye, Ya Yamma (oh my mother)  
Loves the coal and the kindness

Your eyes, Yamma (mother), fell down asleep  
And the eyes of God didn't fall down asleep  
No hard time, Yamma (mother)  
Ever lasted for any creature



## 11. ركبوا خيلهن

ركبوا خيلهن نزلوا على عكا  
وسرج خيلهن يا ذهب منقى

وركبوا خيلهن نزلوا على عمان  
وسرج خيلهن يا ذهب ومرجان

ركبوا خيلهن نزلوا على بيروت  
سرج خيلهن تلمع مثل الياقوت

ركبوا خيلهن نزلوا على لبنان  
وسرج خيلهن من لولو ومرجان

ركبوا خيلهن طلوعوا على الدّبه  
سرج خيلهن يا ذهب الدبّله

ركبوا خيلهن نزلوا على الميدان  
سرج خيلهن من ذهب ومرجان

## 11. THEY RODE THEIR HORSES

TRADITIONAL PALESTINIAN, ADAPTED BY JAWAHER SHOFANI

VOCALS: JAWAHER SHOFANI

They rode their horses and went down to Akka  
The saddles of their horses are from pure gold

They rode their horses and went down to Amman  
The saddles of their horses are from gold and coral

They rode their horses and went down to Beirut  
The saddles of their horses glow like ruby

They rode their horses and went down to Lebanon  
The saddles of their horses are from pearl and coral

They rode their horses and went up to the mountain  
The saddles of their horses are like the gold of the  
marriage ring

They rode their horses and went down to the square  
The saddle of their horses are from gold and coral

## 12. العودة

رغم أنف الزمن أولادي  
يعودوا لبيوتنا المدمّرة

أولادي وأحفاد أحفادي  
تكون العودة أكيدة مسوجرة

تغزّد البلابل ع الجبل والوادي  
تزل وتبعد الأيام المعكّرة

بسكن بعريشة من وردة الحصّادة  
لو كانوا أكلاتي رشتا ومجدرّة

نشقة هوا بتشفي فؤادي  
أقضي الآخرة مع أهلنا  
نرجع بلا تصرّيح وبلا تذكرة

## 12. RETURN BACK HOME

SAMPLES INCLUDE FIELD RECORDINGS FROM IQRIT (ELECTRIC GENERATOR, CLEANING AND SWEEPING THE CHURCH FLOOR, ETC. RECORDED BY WALAA SBAIT)

**WORDS:** JIHAD SBEIT

**VOCALS:** JIHAD SBEIT

In spite of time, my children will return back  
To our demolished houses

My children and the grand children of my children  
Will surely return back home

The nightingales will sing in the mountains and the valleys  
And the disturbed days will go far away and vanish

I will live in a hut made from the straw of the harvest  
And my food will be dough and lentil

A breath of air will cure my heart  
And I will spend the last days of my life with my family

And we'll come back home  
Without a passport and without a ticket



### 13. راجعين لإقرث

صولو:

بدي ع درب الجدود  
أمشي وما توقفني حدود

كورس:

لو هدوا ميّة جامع  
من إقرث ماني طالع

صولو:

بدي ع درب الجدود  
أمشي وما توقفني حدود  
وأبقى في أرضي موجود  
ليعودوا الغوالي

سألوني من وين  
قتلتهن أنا من إقرث  
مفتاحي بإيدي  
ولإبني بدي إورث

كورس:

لو هدوا ميّة جامع  
من إقرث ماني طالع

أنا من إقرث قبل ما حتّى أولد

### 13. RETURN TO IQRIT

SAMPLES INCLUDE CHANTING PROTESTERS AND FREESTYLE BY  
WALAA SBAIT IN IQRIT, PALESTINE.

On the foot steps of my ancestors, I want  
to be able to walk, and not be stopped by  
borders, I want to remain on my land.

They asked me: where are you from? I told  
them I am from Iqrit. My key is in my hand,  
and to my son I want to pass it on!

I'm from Iqrit, even before my birth, because  
my father, my father's father, and my father's  
father's father, they're all from Iqrit!

And we'll remain here, with the courage and  
determination of these boys and girls, and we  
hope you'll come to visit us again when the  
village will be populated once again!

