Community Surveillance in the Public Sphere

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Communities who initiate the installment of surveillance systems in their community have no control these systems they have asked for. They desire the security it promises to provide: yet, they lose their privacy rights. Today, the vast majority of surveillance systems and the data they collect is controlled and owned by the governments or corporations. This leads to a situation where the public has to decide if they are for or against surveillance. Most projects today on surveillance are on either one side of the spectrum. How can we make surveillance more efficient and with better control? Or, on the other hand, how can we block, resist or avoid the surveillance systems all together? In my research, I explore how surveillance systems can be in the control of the citizens. How can we use the surveillance technology, not to control people, but how can a community have control of this technology without giving up their privacy rights, and how to make their environment not only safer and welcoming, but also more opened and democratic. Through artistic research via self-surveillance projects, and working with local community groups who initiate the installment of surveillance systems in the public sphere in their neighborhood an understanding of why they many desire surveillance in their community. This will lead to action-based research and participatory action research (PAC), that will create tools and sur-

veillance systems that will hopefully answer the security need of the community but will also leave the control of the systems in their hands.

I will present the rationalization of my research, the motivation through past artistic projects and present stage of my thesis.

References:

Newman, David, 2004. "From National to Post-National Territorial Identities in Israel-Palestine," in Adriana Kemp, David Newman, Uri Ram and Oren Yiftachel (eds.), *Israelis in Conflict: Hegemonies, Identities and Challenges,* Brighton and Portland: Sussex Academic Press, pp 21-46.

Tzfadia, Erez and Haim Yacobi, 2011. *Rethinking Israeli Space: Periphery and Identity,* London and New York: Routledge.

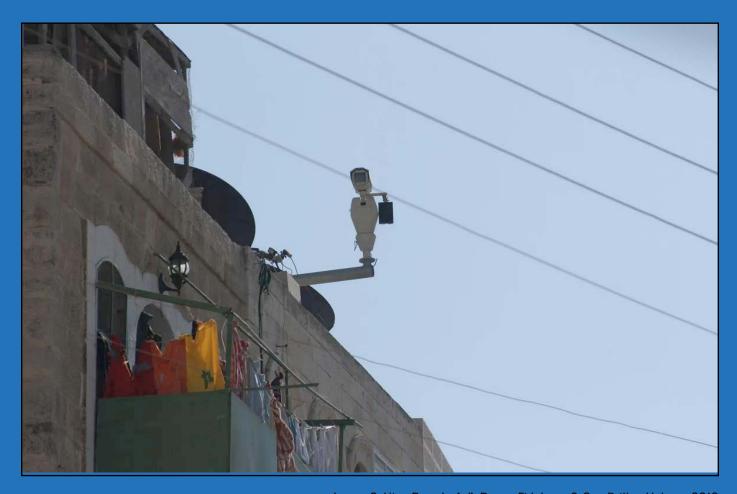Image 1. 6 days in June, The Journey to liberate Jerusalem" Ronen Eidelman & Guy Briller, Jerusalem 2011

Image 2. Nine Days In Av", Ronen Eidelman & Guy Briller, Hebron, 2010

BIOGRAPHY

Ronen Eidelman is an artist, writer and researcher based in Jerusalem. A Phd student at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, at Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning where he also a member of MUNDI (Media Urban New Design Interactions) Lab, and teaches at Shenkar College of Engineering, Design and Art. In 2008, Eidelman received an MFA in Public Art and New Artistic Strategies from Bauhaus University in Weimar, Germany. Ronen is the co-founder and co-editor of Erev-Rav, the leading art and culture magazine in Hebrew. Produced and created many events and projects linking art, culture and grassroots politics as well as creating independent projects in the public sphere. He has participated in exhibitions and festivals worldwide, founded and edited several art and political journals/magazines and for almost two decades has been active in anti-occupation and social-change direct action groups. Ronen likes hats and enjoys wearing many kinds.