

Fig.149 Screenshot of a public space I found exploring some ancient ruins in the near of Jerusalem. While my intention was to film the space an orthodox Jew stares at me and grows upset. In these rare cases I have to explain that it is the place that I am interested in and that anyway the people that happen to be in the video are hardly recognizable.

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Over the years I became aware of people's phobia to be filmed. Even though I am interested in the space and not in the actual people within, in the course of my project I have been told off several times. Once I was filming a park when an upset orthodox Jew came and broke my camera. Another time I was at a playground in East Berlin and I was told off by kindergarten teachers. On another occasion I was in Amsterdam filming a playground from afar and I was told off by a father who thought I was taking a picture of his kid. Later I was assaulted by a bodyguard of a coffee shop I did not notice when filming a street outside the Utrecht University library. Besides these accidents, whenever I can, I never point the camera at people if they are coming my way, rather I wait for people to leave. The discussion here is whether or not I infringe their privacy. My project is not meant to be shared on some online platform with thousands of people. I am not showing off. I am capturing places as a form of poetry, feeling a certain pain about how they are increasingly gentrified and stripped of their aura. Also ironically though my project I bring an element of playfulness within them. There are hardly any kids playing in public places but there is me walking around and doing my game, not only filming but also picking trash and what not.