



ABC NEWS
WORLD NEWS TONIGHT WITH PETER JENNINGS
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Story: **Keeping An Eye On The Middle East**
Correspondent: Peter Jennings
Correspondent Location: San Francisco, California

Story Transcript



PETER JENNINGS
Finally this evening, from here on the West Coast, in the global age, keeping an eye on the Middle East.

PETER JENNINGS
(VO) On the road today in San Francisco, we discovered an unusual satellite channel, WorldLink TV. It watches the Middle East on television 24 hours a day.



This is the production room, let's call it, in WorldLink, which, thanks to satellites, has 24-hour access to everything that Arabs and Israelis broadcast to people in the Middle East. Several times a day, the senior producers here, an Israeli and a Palestinian, pass on the essence of Middle East news that day, in English, to 20 million homes in America, which get their TV by satellite.



Their program is called "Mosaic," which seems to make sense.

Yesterday, the news was about a suicide bombing in Israel. Reported first on Abu Dhabi Television, in the Persian Gulf.



REPORTER, FEMALE
Four Israelis were killed in a martyrdom attack on a shopping mall in Afula.



PETER JENNINGS

(VO) And the same events on the Arabic service of the Israel Broadcasting System.

REPORTER, MALE

It looks like three dead or four.



PETER JENNINGS

(VO) It is a simple idea that WorldLink has, to give Americans alternative perspectives from a part of the world where the US is so deeply engaged. What difference does all this make? Jamal Dajani, the Palestinian.

JAMAL DAJANI, WORLDBLINK TV

Well, I think it brings you a window on what 280 million people in 22 countries in the Middle East are watching on a day-to-day basis. Here in the United States, we're just trapped in our own media bubble. And it's good for us to see what the other side is seeing at the same time.



PETER JENNINGS

(VO) David Michaelis, the Israeli.

DAVID MICHAELIS, WORLDBLINK TV

If you want to understand the conflict and you want to understand the DNA of the conflict, where everyone is boxed into his box of victimhood, you've got to see how everyone tells his story.



PETER JENNINGS

(VO) And with a full schedule of documentaries from other countries, and lots of world music, too, yet another niche broadcaster in America has found a successful way to satisfy the culturally curious.

PETER JENNINGS

As we said, television without borders. That's our report on "World News Tonight." Tomorrow, we're going to be in Sacramento, California, the state capital, to do, among other things, report on the state of California agriculture. I hope you join us then. Until then, I'm Peter Jennings. Good night from San Francisco.