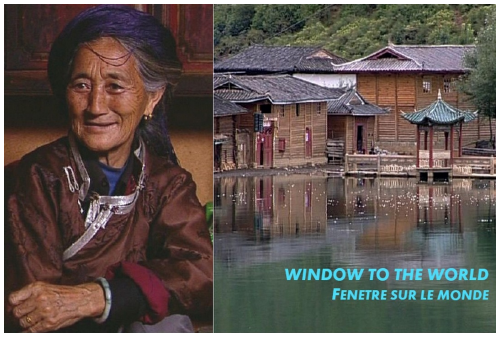

FRANCE: THE SARHAOUI ENIGMA

Director(s): Khaled MELHAA

On Tuesday July 11th 1995, Abdelbaki Sahraoui, co-founder and second-in command of the FIS (Islamic Salvation Front), is assassinated as he left Friday prayers at a Paris mosque. The same day, the Algerian president's office announces the failure of talks with the fundamentalists in Algiers. On Tuesday July 25th 1995, a bomb goes off in a Paris underground train, at Saint-Michel station, killing seven people and wounding dozens of others. France fell victim to a bloody bombing campaign. A detailed investigation builds up a picture of Sahraoui's personal and political development since he settled in France in Jan. 1992 just before the cancellation by the Army of the electoral process in Algeria. One thing is clear, since his assassination, France has become a key element in the Algerian civil war.

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