

SCRIPT 177
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDER

Ends

10:11:00

V/O

Discrimination in Latvia is a serious problem and is on the increase.

Itâ€™s

an intimidating place to be gay or lesbian and too often a dangerous one

too.

General shots Riga

10:11:10

Interview clip Linda

In Latvia it's perfectly alright to be a member of parliament and stand up

in front of your 100 colleagues quote the bible and say that homosexuality

is a sin, say that it's a disease, it's a cancer, compare it to

zoophilia

and necrophilia and paedophilia.

10:11:30

V/O

Linda is a successful business consultant. The hatred and violence she saw

at the pride events in 2006, illustrated the overt homophobia in her country.

10:11:40

Interview clip Linda

I think it was the scariest moment of my life. It was so raw. It was so direct. It was so difficult to comprehend because you don't understand where this hatred comes from. And they were out there and they

obviously

want to kill us.

Shots of No Pride demonstration

10:12:00

Human Rights Defenders Video Short-list/Script

(Algeria/Philippines/Latvia/Dominican Republic/Nigeria)

10:00:00

Black

10:00:20

Text fades in from black

â€œYou must be the change that you want to see in the world.â€

Mahatma Gandhi

10:00:30

V/O

This is the story of just five people among many, who as human rights defenders are changing the world day by dayâ€

10:00:40

General shots Algiers

10:01:00

Amine on stairs of office

10:01:05

Amine

Iâ€™ve been a lawyer in Algeria for five years. When we were young, teenagers, we would go out and have fun. We were very relaxed. But now itâ€™s very risky to go out of Algiers .Itâ€™s an enormous risk. You might be

arrested by the security forces. You might be attacked by armed groups. Itâ€™s not safe anymore.

Amine enters office

People in the market in Algiers

Music cue â€” Arabic instrumentation, â€”les disparusâ€™ theme

10:01:44

Amine

There are people who have no concept of the rights of the individual.

For them, to have someone who knows about human rights, who works with international organizations, who speaks out about the practice of torture, this really gives them confidence. It gives them the courage to go on.

Amine greets client at the door

10:02:10

Amine

I remember once when I managed to free one man who had been tortured, who

had been detained in secret for seven months and had been really badly treated. The day of his trial, I cried when I got him acquitted.

Amine sits with client on sofa

10:02:33

Interview clip Ismail

I was arrested and charged with having links with foreign terrorist groups.

We were in a cell with nearly forty people. It really was hell. I couldnâ€™t even sleep.
Shot of road at night

10:03:05

Interview clip Ismail

After almost two months I was taken away by the security forces. They took me in a secret service van. I was there nearly two weeks. And of course I was tortured.

10:03:25

Interview clip Ismail

In prison someone told me about a young proactive lawyer. And so I contacted Amine. Iâ€™m still with him now. He helped me a lot. He gives me strength. Otherwise I would have been imprisoned for two or three years with no chance of bail.

10:04:02

Amine

One of the hardest things is dealing with the families of the disappeared. You donâ€™t know what to say to them. My hope is that the thousands of disappeared people in this country will come back. But even if they never come back, we have to know the truth. Those in power today who are responsible for these massacres and disappearances. But the government will not admit publicly that they support these people. But deep down they know weâ€™re right. And we will win in the end.

10:04:36

Amine

Every Wednesday morning women gather in front of the Consultative Commission to demand truth and justice for their children and relatives.
Demonstration by families of the disappeared

Nascira at demonstration

10:04:50

Interview Nascira

My son was kidnapped in Algiers on 30 January 1997. He never came back.

10:04:59

Interview Nascira

I did my own investigation. I found out how he was taken, by whom and where he was kept. For two months I followed the trail. I took out a law suit with the help of a lawyer, Amine Sidhoum. Fortunately heâ€™s here; otherwise we would be on our own.

He is almost like my own son. Iâ€™ve known him since he was a young man. Heâ€™s kind, heâ€™s brave. Heâ€™s honest. He cares about his profession. He loves his profession. He really loves what he does. Defending others is his reason for living.

Photo of Nascira's son

Amine at work in office

10:05:40

Amine

It is very difficult working under the current conditions because of the present intimidation, the telephone tapping, sometimes being followed.

We might be run over at any time. They could say it was an accident.

They'll do anything to keep us quiet, to stop our human rights work, because what we do causes them problems! a lot of problems.

10:06:25

Photos of the disappeared

10:06:59

Ends

10:06:00

V/O

Even in countries like the Philippines, well used to activism, defending some rights brings isolation or hostility. This is the story of a woman trying to help other women understand their sexual and reproductive rights.

General shots Manila

10:07:16

Interview clip Gina

I'm just an ordinary mother, I was a teenage mother, married at sixteen, I had my first baby at seventeen. By the age of nineteen I already had three children.

10:07:32

V/O

Gina Conde is a health worker with a women's organisation and runs a clinic in the community where she lives.

10:07:42

Interview clip Gina

My mother raised me to believe that my role in life is just in the home.

But, I wasn't satisfied with that. When I became a member of the women's organisation, that's when I realised that women have equal rights and that men have no right to control women. You can do what you like; you have the right to make a decision, especially about whether to get pregnant.

10:08:17

V/O

In the Philippines women have few opportunities to control their sexual

and

reproductive health. Divorce and abortion are illegal, maternal

mortality

rates are high, access to contraceptives and family planning advice is limited and religion is playing its part in resisting change.

10:08:37

Interview clip Gina in the clinic

What Iâ€™m going to do in the clinic today is general check ups, check ups

on

patients who are pregnant, those who want family planning advice, and those

who want to be seen for something that requires urgent medical attention.

All of our patients know that they have the right to limit their pregnancies and the right to refuse sex.

10:09:04

Interview clip Gina

The problem is that in reality, women feel they canâ€™t refuse sex for fear

of being beaten. Theyâ€™ve been made to feel that it is their duty to have

sex with their husbands. Most of our women patients want family planning

but their partners donâ€™t like it. So the most common contraceptives that

we are giving are the injectable ones and the IUD because the men wonâ€™t

know about it.

10:09:46

Interview clip beneficiary outside clinic

Iâ€™ve got two children. One is 4 years old and one is two years four months.

I decided to use contraceptives because life is very hard now. I donâ€™t

want

to have another pregnancy. I want to be able to work and to help out my husband.

10:10:12

Interview clip Gina

To speak to them individually and give them advice and give them counselling, I think thatâ€™s already a big help in terms of their health. I

donâ€™t feel the tiredness even when I have to walk a lot and go from house

to house because when I get there the women make me feel welcome and tell

me their stories. But at the end of the day when I go home itâ€™s with a

heavy heart if I have not been able to find a solution to their problems.

Gina walks through community in Manila

10:10:58