

PRESS RELEASE

Total Denial is the story of a historical lawsuit: 15 villagers from the jungle of Burma suing a leading oil corporation for human rights abuses in American Courts. After 10 years of fierce legal battles, the impossible Victory.

In the last five years producer/director Milena Kaneva, has been following the abuses over the local population caused by the Yadana pipeline in Burma,. Her “guide” during this journey has been Ka Hsaw Wa, introduced by Kerry Kennedy in her book “Speak Truth to Power” as: ” He is a man of such incredible courage and commitment and with the firm belief that one man can make a difference.”

Ethnic Karen, Ka Hsaw Wa is one of the leaders of the student’s movement for democracy in Burma in 1988. He has been hiding in the jungle for more than 7 years. Wanted by the secret police both in Burma and in Thailand , Ka Hsaw Wa has gathered the evidence of thousands of victims of human rights and environmental abuses.

In 1995 with the co-founder of Earth Rights International Katie Redford, later his wife, they brought this precedent setting lawsuit in a American court.

In 1992 two western oil companies the French TOTAL and the American UNOCAL start building a gas pipeline in joint venture with the Burmese military regime. The Burmese army, hired by the companies to do security of the project, forces the local population into slave labor.

The film has been shot in Burma, Thailand, Europe and the American courts between 2000-05. Burned villages, raped women, tortured and killed porters, hundred’s of thousands of men, women and children hiding in the jungle is the picture of a silent genocide.

The identity of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit and in the film are protected under the California State Law. Their faces and voices are distorted for their security.

As free lance producer and journalist Milena Kaneva was doing reports in different hot spots of the world. She has been shooting in Africa, Asia and South America, working for World Wide Television New(WTN, later APTN), for RAI(Italy), PBS and National Geographic among others. Her reports with HH the Dalai Lama during the Kalachakra Iniation in India and her interview with the Nobel Prize laureate for Piece Aung San



Suu Kyi, kept under house arrest by the military junta for the last 15 years were transmitted around the world. This Burmese experience marked her interest into the destiny of Burma forever.

Total Denial has been awarded with the special prize for Human Rights of President Vaclav Havel during the One World Festival in Prague(1-9th. March 2006).
The film has been selected for the Toronto Hot Docs festival (April 28-May7).

The original music is written by the famous Bulgarian composer Nikolai Ivanov- OM.