

The Arusha Tapes: Justice After Genocide

Director and Producer: Mandy Jacobson

The film is an Internews production about the ongoing efforts to bring justice and accountability to Rwanda in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide, which cost approximately 800,000 people their lives. The landscape for justice in Rwanda is complex. Today, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) holds court in Arusha, Tanzania, prosecuting those responsible for violating international criminal law, while in Rwanda the fledgling national courts are charged with prosecuting 120,000 suspects. Now a new initiative will revive traditional local courts, called gacaca, in communities across the country.

"The Arusha Tapes" documents the critical moments of the first five years of the ICTR. The film will be screened publicly across Rwanda, bringing news and images of the ICTR back to the places where the crimes were committed. For many in Rwanda, this film will be their first chance to see how this form of international justice operates and to watch as their former leaders stand trial for their actions. The project will culminate in a feature-length documentary ("Genocide on Trial") incorporating footage of the "The Arusha Tapes," as well as responses from Rwandans to the film and all three forms of justice: international, national, and traditional.

"What drew me to this project is the fact that Rwanda and the international community have come up with not one, but three different legal systems, sometimes overlapping, sometimes contradictory, in order to deal with the genocide. These are unprecedented efforts, attempts in some sense to prosecute the unprosecutable" explains Director and Producer Mandy Jacobson.

Mandy Jacobson is the producer/director of "Calling the Ghosts: A Film About Rape, War, and Women." This documentary has won numerous awards including two Emmys for Best Investigative Special and Directing, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, the CableAce Best Informational Special and the Human Rights Watch Nestor Almendros award. The film has enjoyed widespread coverage, premiering for HBO on CINEMAX, was featured on CNN, and CBS's "60 Minutes" and in over forty international markets. Most recently, Jacobson worked as the file producer on the award-winning two-hour PBS special, "Facing the Truth with Bill Moyers," about South Africa's Truth and reconciliation Commission. The film received the DuPont-Columbia Gload Baton and a Peabody Award.

The Arusha Tapes staff also includes:

Executive Producer Mark Frohardt who lived and worked in Rwanda from 1994 -1977as a Deputy Chief of Mission for the united Nations Human Rights Field Operations for Rwanda.

Field Producer Eugene Cornelius, an independent video documentary producer in Rwanda and a survivor of the genocide. He has worked with the Rwandan Ministry of Justice in a program to educate Rwandan citizens about the traditional courts (gacaca).

Researchers Farah Stockman, who joined Internews in 1998 as Project Manager for Internews' coverage of the ICTR. She is currently a reporter with the Boston Globe. And Bridget Conley of the Human Rights Project.

Production Consultant Louise Mushikiwabo is the first genocide survivor to file a class action lawsuit against the United Nations, she is also president of the Rwanda Children's Foundation, and is assisting in the production of a Kinyarwanda-language version of the film for Rwandan audiences.