

PRESS RELEASE

JUSTICE FOR SALE - DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE

A film by: Ilse & Femke van Velzen
Produced by: IFPRODUCTIONS, 2011, The Netherlands
Length & Format: 83 minutes, HD
Website: www.justiceforsale.nl

World premiere at IDFA:

On November 20st IFPRODUCTIONS' new documentary 'JUSTICE FOR SALE' will have its world premiere during the International Documentary Film Festival (IDFA) in Amsterdam. '*Justice for Sale*' follows Claudine, a young and courageous human rights lawyer, in her struggle against injustice and widespread impunity in Congo.

About the film:

Claudine investigates the case of Masamba, a soldier who was convicted of rape and discovers that his trial was corrupt and unfair. He was jailed without any concrete evidence. In Claudine's journey to obtain justice for Masamba, she uncovers a system where the basic principles of law are virtually ignored. Masamba's trial also raises questions about the financial support that the international community and NGOs offer to the Congolese judicial system. Is it creating a justice that's for sale? And if so, who pays the price?

About the filmmakers:

Ilse and Femke van Velzen are internationally recognized, award-winning filmmakers. They have worked in the Congo for six years making *Fighting the Silence*; about the consequences for victims of sexual violence and *Weapon of War*; about confessions of rape by rebels and military. In 2010, *Weapon of War* was awarded Holland's equivalent of the Oscar, the "Gouden Kalf". *Justice For Sale*, about Congo's failing judicial system, emerged as a natural "next step" in the progression of the unintentional series.

Failing judicial system in DR Congo

Despite the seriousness and scale of rape crimes that are committed in the Congo, hardly anybody is held responsible for them. Widespread impunity is caused by the poor functioning of the Congolese national justice system which is characterised by corruption, poor legal training, violations of procedures, lack of political will and the limited presence of tribunals in rural areas. As a consequence, survivors of rape are seldom able to get their rapists behind bars. Those who do end up in prison are usually poor and sometimes even innocent because the rights of suspects are rarely respected.

Bring the film back to the Congo:

With *Justice for Sale*, IFproductions together with the Mobile Cinema Foundation are launching a nation-wide campaign in the Congo to put a halt to impunity and corruption in Congo's legal system. This nationwide campaign will spread its message through all forms of media: mobile cinema screenings of IF's films and other related tailor-made films, radio talk shows and jingles, television commercials, comic books and other written content to raise awareness of judicial procedures at the community level. At the same time they will seek to challenge the attitudes of personnel in the justice system and Congo's politicians in order to take judicial reform seriously. This project will be implemented in collaboration with Cordaid, Stichting Vluchteling and the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

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Crew

Directed & Produced by : Ilse van Velzen & Femke van Velzen
Production company : IFPRODUCTIONS
Script writing/scenario : Ilse van Velzen & Femke van Velzen
Field producer : Nynke Douma
Director of Photography : Rogier Timmermans
Additional Cinematography : Bram van Spengen
Editor : Paul de Heer
Sound design & Music : Jeroen Goeijers

'JUSTICE FOR SALE' is a documentary by IFPRODUCTIONS.
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The film is funded by:

- The Netherlands Film Fund
- Cordaid Mensen in Nood
- Stichting Vluchteling
- Dutch Postcode Lottery
- Oxfam-Novib
- The Gucci Tribeca Documentary Fund & the PPR Foundation of Women's Dignity & Rights
- Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program
- Greenhouse
- GoodPitch

More Information

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