



MEXICANS DYING FOR JUSTICE

Jose Guevara, Michael Chamberlin and Ariana Garcia are Mexican whistleblowers. As their country is devastated by mass crimes and drug cartels, they're ready to take any risk to end the impunity of the narcos, and denounce the collusion of the Mexican army and police. Their fight: to haul up the highest national officials before the International Criminal Court, the ICC, in charged of prosecuting war crimes and crimes against humanity. A quest for justice and a insider's view into the role and functioning of this judicial authority, in charge of prosecuting war crimes and crimes against humanity.



52'

Summary

In Mexico, the Government has been at war with drug cartels for ten years. Murders, abductions, attacks, the armed struggle has justified violence on both sides. Since 2006, 150,000 people have died, 28,000 people have disappeared and 92 % of the crimes haven't been tried. Blighted by corruption, the Mexican state has failed to bring the culprits to justice. When not simply protecting them. Faced with this disastrous situation, a man has risen up.

As a lawyer specialized in international law, Jose Guevara has faith in justice. In his view, if his country can't stop crimes, the International Criminal Court located in The Hague is the last resort to stop impunity! Working closely with Ariana, Michael, Blanca or Javier, human rights activists working on the field, he's been sounding the alarm. As they've blamed both the narcos and the Mexican army or police, they're seen as traitors in their country. They've been attacked by the press, discredited by the authorities and threatened with death.

Ariana and Michael investigate and gather evidences, Jose builds the legal cases, they fight on every front. On the field in Mexico we follow their tireless work amongst the population and travel to the places where civilians have fallen victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We follow the judicial proceedings in The Hague, home of the ICC, where they'll submit the case they're building, in order to launch an international judicial inquiry.

As a supranational legal authority, the International Criminal Court's mission is to prosecute crimes when the States that have accepted its jurisdiction don't do justice themselves. Mexico is among the 124 states parties that ratified the Rome statute of the ICC between 1998 and 2016 and as such can be prosecuted by the ICC.

Alongside Jose, Ariana and Javier, we'll find out how the Court functions, and witness its red tapes and limits. We have been granted rare access to this cosy microcosm, with limited means, far from the victims. This fifteen-year-old institution raises doubts over its efficiency and independence, where realpolitik prevails.

Will Jose succeed in launching an international criminal investigation in his country? Is the ICC the solution to prosecute those responsible for crimes in Mexico and achieve the ideal of international justice ?



The main characters



Jose Guevara, a Mexican jurist

He's a world-class lawyer and works as a legal counsel for the United Nations. He's the one who builds the file to convince the ICC to initiate investigation.



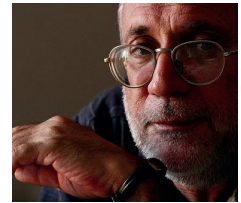
Ariana Garcia, a Mexican lawyer

She works closely with Coahuila witnesses. With endless courage, she regularly faces the police and the authorities. She's a field woman.



Michael Chamberlain, a human rights activist and a monk

Within the Church, Michael works towards the gathering of testimonies and the protection of victims. He travels with Jose to The Hague whenever necessary.



Javier Sicilia, a Mexican poet

Javier's son was abducted and murdered with several classmates in 2011. Since then, Javier has stopped writing, because "he feels no more poetry inside him". He's an activist now.



Jimena Reyes, leader of the International Human Rights Federation for Latin America

Based in Brussels, she's the link between the Mexican team and the European NGOs. She joins Jose to convince the jurists in The Hague.



Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court



Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi, President of the International Criminal Court

**Emeric Rogier, assistant of the Prosecutor,
in charge of launching investigations**
He's our characters' key contact in The Hague.



Philippe Kirsch, rapporteur of the Rome Statute and first President of the ICC He's our great witness giving insight into how the ICC was founded.



**Darryl Robinson,
a Canadian jurist, former advisor to the Prosecutor**
He will highlight how the ICC functions and detail its shortfalls.



**Mireille Delmas Marty,
an honorary professor of international law at the Collège de France**
She is a strong advocate of International Justice as a work in progress and has faith in its proceedings.



Emmanuel Altid, Laurent Gbagbo's lawyer

Direction project note

The story of Jose, Ariana, Javier and the Mexican civilians they represent at the International Criminal Court is our main narrative thread between Mexico and la Hague.

We'll follow our characters wherever they'll take us to: from Mexico to The Hague, through Northern Mexico and the United States border. Their quest for justice takes us at the heart of the investigation in Baja California (Tijuana) and Coahuila (Saltillo and Piedras Negras).

The dynamics of the film lies in the contradictions, and the visual style will reflect them:

In Mexico, the humanity of the people portrayed comes up against the serious violence that prevails there. Our challenge is to express the unspeakable. The emotion we felt when scouting before shooting will be expressed in the photography of the film. We will be very close to the characters, filming over the shoulder, in an intimate atmosphere...

In The Hague, where International Justice has troubles becoming effective and is likely to really disappoint our characters, we will capture the clinical legal discourse embodied by the prosecutors and judges.

PRODUCTION TEAM

THE DIRECTORS: André Chandelle & Patrick Remacle

The director André Chandelle and the journalist Patrick Remacle have followed the work of international prosecutors for many years as shown in their previous films : *I was at Nuremberg* by André Chandelle (TV film - 2010, France tv, TV5 Monde) and *On Mladic's trail* by Patrick Remacle, (Documentary - 2010, RTBF, Arte)

THE PRODUCERS



Narratio films was founded three years ago by three experienced producers and has already produced six films mainly dealing with social and historical subjects, as the multi-awarded *I'm the people* by Anna Rousillon: Grand Prix in Jihlava and Belfort 2015 and recipient of 30 international major awards.



Located in Brussels, *Media Res* is a long standing documentary producer with over 300 hours produced employing over thirty collaborators.

Mexican Whistleblowers in The Hague is the third film these two companies have co-produced together.

Budget : 365 000 euros

Gap : 60 000 euros

INTERNATIONAL SALES

WWW.TERRANO.COM

**155 rue de Charonne - 75011 Paris -
FRANCE**

contact@terrano.com