



THE LAST KILLING

A whistleblower to Punjab Police's extrajudicial killings tells the story of his 20 year fight for justice.

*In order to fight for justice,
I had to lose my house.
I had to lose my body.
I had to lose my father.*

*But I will not be intimidated.
I will not be scared, nor
intimidated, nor sold.*

–Satwant Singh Manak

THE LAST KILLING

FILM INFORMATION

LOG LINE

A whistleblower to Punjab Police's extrajudicial killings tells the story of his twenty year fight for justice.

TECHNICAL

Running Time: 23 minutes

Exhibition Format: DVD, Blu-Ray, digital file

Aspect Ratio : 16:9

Shooting Format: HD

Languages: Punjabi, English

Subtitles: English

Year of Production: 2013

Filmed in : Punjab, India

Produced in: USA

AWARDS

Best Human Rights Short at IOWFF Amnesty International Film Festival

Best Short Documentary at Sikh International Film Festival

Creative Media Award at SikhLens Film Festival



SHORT SYNOPSIS

Satwant Singh Manak joined the Punjab Police to provide his family with a stable income. But in the late 1980s and early 1990s, in response to an insurgency, Indian security forces committed systematic and widespread torture, disappearances, and unlawful killings in Punjab. Manak silently witnessed the torture and executions of 15 unarmed individuals at the hands of his fellow police officers. The last killing of Kulwant Singh, a teenager who had passed 10th grade, deeply affected Manak. No longer able to suppress his conscience and the horror of what he witnessed, he raised his voice and was dismissed from his job.

In 1994, Manak filed a case against his fellow police officers. His courage came at a great cost. The police brutally tortured Manak, fatally tortured his father, and threatened his family. Despite such persecution, Manak has continued the fight for justice for 20 years. *The Last Killing* follows him as he organizes the families of the victims to attend the final hearing of the case at the Punjab and Haryana High Court in August 2013.

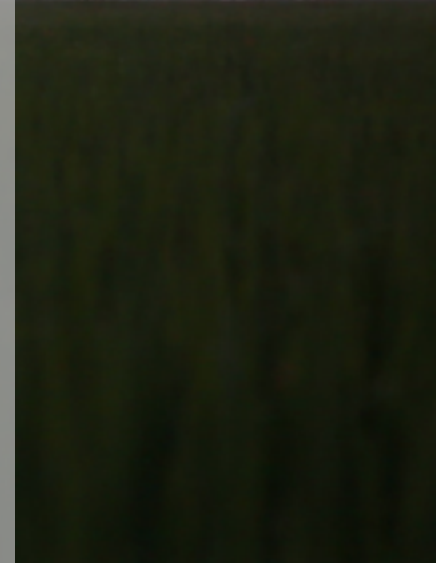


LONG SYNOPSIS

From 1984 to 1995, Indian security forces engaged in systematic human rights violations in the state of Punjab, India, as part of counterinsurgency operations aimed at crushing a violent self-determination movement. There was a system of rewards and incentives for police to capture and kill militants, leading to a dramatic increase in disappearances and extrajudicial executions. By the end of the “Decade of Disappearances” in 1995, security forces had disappeared or killed tens of thousands of civilians.

Satwant Singh Manak joined the Punjab Police to provide a stable income for his family. From November 1991 to December 1993, he served at CIA (Criminal Intelligence Agency) Staff in Moga. During that time, he witnessed 15 to 16 unlawful killings. When he witnessed the brutal killing of Kulwant Singh, a teenager who had passed the 10th grade, something inside Manak awakened. He raised his voice against the atrocities and was himself tortured by the police for 42 days. Armed with detailed information on the abuses committed by the police, Manak filed a case in the Punjab & Haryana High Court in September 1994, asking the Court to order the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate the faked encounters. A fake encounter is when the security forces kill an unarmed individual, and then plant a weapon on him to show the media that the individual was killed in an exchange of gunfire. The case named the officers responsible for the torture and unlawful killings of each victim, as well as senior police officers who Manak had informed of the crimes.

That case had been pending in the court system for almost 20 years. In August 2013, the case had its final hearing. The film follows Manak and the victim's families as they go to the hearing in hopes of getting a favorable decision.



CREW BIOS

Satinder Kaur - DIRECTOR

Satinder Kaur is a veteran, filmmaker and activist. She is interested in telling stories that highlight and explore social justice issues. She received an MFA in film production from University of Southern California, School of Cinematic Arts, and is the recipient of the James Bridges Award for excellence in film directing. Kaur is also a U.S. Army veteran, and served as a Preventive Medicine Specialist during her year-long deployment to Baghdad. She is currently working with a non-profit organization called ENSAAF to document stories of survivors of the political violence in Punjab, India.

Ensaaf - PRODUCER

Ensaaf is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to end impunity and achieve justice for mass state crimes in India, with a focus on Punjab, by documenting abuses, bringing perpetrators to justice, and organizing survivors. For more information, please visit www.ensaaf.org

Drew Heskett - CINEMATOGRAPHER

Drew Heskett is a world-traveling filmmaker with an insatiable obsession for the power of an image to change everything. At 22 years old, his film experience to date has been the holistic result of exploring the mountains of Mozambique, shivering in the depths of a Montana winter, and smiling in the sweltering heat while filming the faces of Amritsar, India. Drew loves the idea of using film as a medium to connect peoples across large oceans and across small living rooms, of attempting to draw a big complex pattern to explain one tiny moment of absolute chaos, and of generally searching to find and communicate some form of universal truth, whatever that means.

CREW BIOS

Darshan Kembhavi - EDITOR

Darshan presently works as a Film Editor for a production company called 'Feeln' which is a movie subscription service that licenses both Hollywood Studio Content as well as produces its own films that entertain, inspire and delight audiences of all ages. Besides his full-time job, he has been editing two feature documentaries, one is called 'FACE OF A NATION', directed by Mina Chow which is about building International relations through the medium of Architecture between countries at the Shanghai World EXPO 2010 and the other is called, 'VOLANTOR', directed by Scott Hardie which is about one man's dream to design the first ever flying car.

Neelamjit Dhillon - COMPOSER

International multi-instrumentalist performer-composer Neelamjit Dhillon is a professional musician equally versed in both Eastern and Western traditions. His extensive training in both jazz and classical Indian music gives him a firm rooting in two distinct styles and provides a unique perspective into the universality of music. He has performed at prestigious festivals and events in locals such as Somalia, Brasil, Canada, India, and the Untitled States and is currently pursuing his doctorate in music at the prestigious California Institute of the Arts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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