Not far from Timbuktu, now ruled by the religious fundamentalists, Kidane lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife Satima, his daughter Toya, and Issan, their twelve-year-old shepherd.

In town, the people suffer, powerless, from the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists determined to control their faith. Music, laughter, cigarettes, even soccer have been banned. The women have become shadows but resist with dignity. Every day, the new improvised courts issue tragic and absurd sentences.

Kidane and his family are being spared the chaos that prevails in Timbuktu. But their destiny changes when Kidane accidentally kills Amadou, the fisherman who slaughtered «GPS», his beloved cow. He now has to face the new laws of the foreign occupants.

SYNOPSIS

On July 29th, 2012 in Aguelhok, a small city in northern Mali – more than half of which was being occupied by men who were mostly outsiders – an unspeakable crime took place to which the media largely turned a blind eye. A thirty-something couple, blessed with two children, were stoned to death.

Their crime: they weren’t married. The video of their killing, which was posted online by the perpetrators, is horrid. The woman dies struck by the first stone, while the man lets out a hollow rasp of a cry. Then silence. Soon after they were dug up only to be buried further away.

Aguelhok is not Damascus, nor Tehran. So nothing is said about all this. What I write is unbearable, I know this. I am in no way trying to use shock value to promote a film. I can’t say I didn’t know and, now that I do, I must testify in the hopes that no child will ever again have to learn their parents died because they loved each other.

SHORT DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

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FILMOGRAPHY ABDERRAHMANE SISSAKO

1989
THE GAME (short)

1992
OCTOBRE (short)

1995
LE CHAMEAU ET LES BÂTONS FLOTTANTS (short)

1996
SABRAYA (short)

1997
ROSTOV-LUANDA (documentary)

1998
LIFE ON EARTH

2002
WAITING FOR HAPPINESS (segment: N’DIMAGU–DIGNITY)

2006
BAMAKO Out-of-competition, Cannes Film Festival

2007
TIYA’S DREAM / 8 (short)

2008
STORIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

2010
JE VOUS SOUHAITE LA PLUIE (short)
CAST
Kidane  Ibrahim Ahmed aka Pino
Satima  Toulou Kiki
Abdelkrim  Abel Jafri
Fatou  Fatoumata Diawara
Jihadist  Hichem Yacoubi
Zabou  Kettly Noël
Issan  Mehdi AG Mohamed
Toya  Layla Walet Mohamed
Imam  Adel Mahmoud Cherif
Chief jihadist  Salem Dendou

Duration 1h37 – France/Mauritania
frame 2.35 – sound 5.1 – 2014

CREW
Directed by  Abderrahmane Sissako
Screenplay  Abderrahmane Sissako
Photography  Kessen Tall
Sound  Sofiane El Fani
Philippe Welsh
Roman Dymny
Thierry Delors
Editor  Nadia Ben Rachid
Music  Amine Bouhafa
1st Assistant Director  Demba Dieye
Set decoration/Prod. design  Sébastien Birchler
Costumes  Ami Sow
Location Manager  Sekou Traoré
Production  Les Films du Worso
Dune Vision
Arches Films - ARTE France Cinéma
Orange Studio
Coproducers  Canal+, Ciné +, ARTE France, Le Pacte,
TV5 Monde et le Centre National
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