

## **THE LAW IN THESE PARTS**

### **Israeli Filmmaker Ra'anan Alexandrowicz's Provocative Look at the Military Legal System in the Occupied Territories**

#### **Wins Top Documentary Prize for World Cinema at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival**

JANUARY 29, 2012 (Park City, UT) - In a closing night ceremony yesterday at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, the Israeli film *THE LAW IN THESE PARTS*, directed by Ra'anan Alexandrowicz (*THE INNER TOUR*, *JAMES' JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM*) and produced by Liran Atzmor, was awarded the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize for Documentary Film. A piercing examination of the 43-year legal system of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the film received its North American premiere at the festival.

In exploring the legal framework of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories, *THE LAW IN THESE PARTS* reveals what happens when measures driven by security considerations become permanent reality. Through archival footage and interviews with Israeli military judges, prosecutors and legal advisors, the documentary unravels an intricate system of military control that symbolizes one of the most enduring and damaging conflicts of our time. From establishing settlements in an occupied area to dealing with torture in interrogations to rationalizing parallel legal systems for Palestinians and Israelis, *THE LAW IN THESE PARTS* explores some of Israel's basic moral quandaries. Can a nation that occupies another people act with genuine adherence to the principles of rule-of-law? What are the costs that a society engaged in such a long term exercise must bear? And what are the implications of the very effort of documenting such a system?

In presenting the award, Sundance jury member Nick Fraser stated: "This award goes to a great film. It's a tough film. It's an unforgiving film. It's a film made with spare artistry that you might tend to overlook because you're so busy looking into the film to see what it tells you... The jury loved this film because we thought it should be shown not just in this country, but we hoped it would get out all over the world and change people's minds."

"This is the hardest film I've made," said director Alexandrowicz on accepting the prize. After thanking the Sundance Institute's documentary film program, which has supported the project since its inception, the filmmaker added, "This is an amazing moment for me as a filmmaker, but it's a film about a painful and unresolved subject. What you find out in the film is that upholding law doesn't necessarily lead to justice. And sometimes it can even be turned into a tool which the state uses against certain groups in society. And when this happens and laws become unjust we have to oppose them and, if necessary, we have to break them."

*THE LAW IN THESE PARTS* is produced by Liran Atzmor. Co-producer: B.Z. Goldberg. Executive producer: Laura Poitras. Cinematographer: Shark De Mayo. Editor: Neta Dvorkis. Outreach: Libby Lenkinski.

The film has screened extensively in Israel since receiving the award for Best Documentary at the 2011 Jerusalem Film Festival in July. It will be released theatrically in the U.S. this fall.

For press notes and images: [www.thelawfilm.com](http://www.thelawfilm.com)

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