

“The Crying Sun” (Memorial/WITNESS co-production 2007, 26 min) tells the story of people from the Chechen mountainous village of Zumsoy and their struggle to preserve cultural identity and traditions in the context of military raids and enforced disappearances by the federal army, attacks by guerilla fighters, and subsequent displacement. By helping to articulate the voices of Zumsoy villagers in the public and policy spheres, the video calls on local and federal authorities to end impunity for human rights violations and to restore policies for the return of mountain villagers to their ancestral homes. In the international advocacy fora, the video will help bring visibility to calls for justice in Chechnya. (Author: Zarema Mukusheva; Producers: Ekaterina Sokiryanskaya, Shamil Tangiev; Consultant: Ousam Baysaev)

- **Zarema (Zina) Mukusheva** is human right defender who has been working at Memorial Grozny since 2000. As Memorial monitor, she uses visual media to bring international attention to murders, mass graves, disappearances, and kidnappings in Chechnya. Zarema is the recipient of the 2005 Reebok Human Rights Award for young human rights activists who do courageous work in war-torn areas. Mukusheva is a graduate of Chechen State University with an MA in history.
- **Ekaterina Sokiryanskaya** has worked in Memorial Nazran since 2003. She heads the programs “Database of Enforced Disappearances in Chechnya” and “Counting Fabrications of Criminal Cases within the Framework of Anti-Terrorist Operations in the North Caucasus.” Sokiryanskaya is a graduate of Central European University in Budapest, with MA in political science of post-communist transition, holds a Ph.D. in political science from St Petersburg State University. She is Assistant Professor of Political Science at History Department of the Chechen State University in Grozny.
- **Shamil (Shamsudin) Tangiev** is the Head of Memorial office in Grozny. Since early 2000, he has worked on documenting and reporting war crimes in Chechnya with particular focus on enforced disappearances and summary executions of the Chechen civilians. He has also been responsible for Memorial UNHCR sponsored work with internally displaced people in Chechnya, has co-authored Memorial annual reports on “Situation of Residents of Chechnya in the Russian Federation” and other publications on human rights violations in Chechnya. Tangiev holds a Degree in Law from Russian Institute of Economy and Law (Regional branch in Ingushetia).
- **Ousam Baysaev** is a human rights defender, author, and reporter for Radio-Free Europe (Chechnya). Since 2000, he has worked in Memorial office in Ingushetia, documenting human rights abuses in Chechnya. He has co-authored a book series “People Live Here. A Chronicle of Violence of the Second Chechen War,” investigative reports “Zachistka,” and “Anti-terrorist Operations.” Since 2002, he is a news reporter for Radio-Marcho (RRE, North Caucasus desk in the Chechen language).

Memorial’s Human Rights Center was created in 1991 with a purpose of human rights research and advocacy for Memorial Society, a Russian historical and educational non-governmental association. The Center focuses on human rights protection in the conflict zones in ex-Soviet Republics. Memorial also operates a Migrants Rights Network providing free legal assistance and counseling to refugees and forced migrants in 58 cities of the Russian Federation. Since the beginning of the second military campaign in 2000, Memorial has been the only Russian human rights group with permanent offices on the ground in the conflict zones in post-Soviet Republics of Chechnya and Ingushetia, documenting human rights violations and offering legal assistance to victims. **Memorial’s office in Grozny** was founded in early 2000 to document mass human rights violations in Chechnya, provide legal and social counseling to residents of Chechnya, and work with victims of war crimes. A team of lawyers, monitors, and social workers investigates and reports violations and represents victims in courts. Center’s work includes human rights advocacy before the local and federal authorities and international institutions.

WITNESS uses the power of video and online technologies to open the eyes of the world to human rights abuses. By partnering with local organizations around the globe, WITNESS empowers human rights defenders to use video to shine a light on those most affected by human rights violations, and to transform personal stories into powerful tools of justice. Over the past decade and a half, WITNESS has partnered with groups in more than 60 countries, bringing often unseen images, untold stories and seldom heard voices to the attention of key decision makers, the media, and the general public -- catalyzing grassroots activism, political engagement, and lasting change. WITNESS works with its partners to provide them with access to equipment, training, and strategic support in the use of video as a tool for human rights advocacy and documentation.