

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film focuses on the act of murder. Not so much the *how*, but more the *why*.

Iranian women who murder their husbands show very little remorse for their homicides. Even after years in prison, they still believe that they were in the right. But why would a mother kill her husband with her daughter's help? What happened in their lives to bring them to such an act? There are those who say they should have gotten divorced instead of killing their husbands, but when divorce is decided by the husband and the wife has no say, what then?

In this film we see murder through the eyes of murderers, both mothers and daughters. I wanted to scrutinize their act of killing from various perspectives, understand their reasons and find out whether the act itself was a difficult task. Do they carry the burden of their deed for years on end?

I have been filming at Centers for Correction and Rehabilitation for 12 years. Both my father and grandfather were political prisoners and, as a consequence, prisons and prisoners have always fascinated me. What's more, when I was 15, I attempted suicide after my father's third bankruptcy. Suicide strangely makes one both murderer and murdered. That is perhaps why I feel the need to delve into the motivations of those who kill and try to elucidate them.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Mehrdad Oskouei is an Iranian filmmaker, producer, photographer and researcher. He was born in Tehran in 1969 and graduated with a degree in film direction from the University of Arts. One of Iran's foremost documentarians, his films have screened at festivals around the world to great critical acclaim. In 2010, Oskouei received the Dutch Prince Claus award for his achievements.

He is a founding member of the Institute of Anthropology and Culture, has sat on the juries for several international film festivals and served as a cultural ambassador for the United Nation's humanitarian committee UCHA. He teaches at film schools around Iran and is active in the Tehran Arts and Culture Association.