

Theme #migration

educational screening kit

TRAPPED BY LAW

Director: Sami Mustafa

Production country & year: Kosovo, Germany 2015

Length: 92 min

Producer: Sami Mustafa, Charlotte Bohl

Camera: Yanis Mazuch, Sami, Faton and Denis Mustafa

Editor: Carina Mergens, Nicole Kartluke

Sound design: Tomas Blakenberg

Official Website: <https://trappedbylawmovie.wordpress.com/>

Watch film: <https://vimeo.com/138302510>

Request screening rights/ a screener: romawood@gmail.com

Reports on forced deportation: <https://trappedbylawmovie.wordpress.com/about-deportation/>

Synopsis

An odyssey, coming of age, and family separation story of two brothers filmed over the course of five years after the law of “forced reintegration” was signed between Kosovo and Germany and other EU states.

Kefaet and Selami, two young brothers and rap artists, grew up in the hip-hop culture in Essen, Germany. Kefaet was born in Kosovo and taken by his parents to Germany at the age of four. He was married and has two children. Selami was born in Essen and has never been to Kosovo at all. During a dramatic night in March 2010, they are deported to Kosovo, a country completely unknown to them. Separated from their family and friends, they try to cope with their situation and do everything in their power to return to Germany. But administration and asylum laws stand in their way.

Biography

Sami Mustafa is an award-winning independent documentary director, producer, and writer. He is founder of the Romawood, Rolling Film Festival, and Somany organizations. He also acts as a film tutor to give the opportunity to young Roma people to learn and to express other lives, experiences, and identity through artistic methods, producing documentary films.

He made his first film in 2003, as a trainee in Plementina village, Kosovo, his native town. This was also where he learned the techniques of filmmaking with the Balkan Sunflowers NGO. Within little more than a decade he has produced, directed, and written more than fifty short documentaries, docu-fiction films, and two full-length films.

One of his films, *Road to Home*, a story of a young Kosovar visiting his occupied neighborhood across the river in Mitrovica for the first time after the Kosovo war, was screened at the Cannes Film Festival in 2007 -- the only Kosovar film presented. In his unique work as a Roma filmmaker, he brings the self-representation of Roma in cinema closer to a human level and also brings it to the Roma population in Europe.

After visiting and participating in numerous film festivals, he decided to bring a special focus to cinema representation of Romani people by organizing the first biennale of the Rolling Film Festival in the capital of Kosovo, showcasing films made by and about Roma in 2009. In 2011 he joined his companion, who lived in Kosovo during three years, in moving to live in Lyon, France.

Directors Statement - Short Background on Roma Deportation

"I wanted to make a film about Roma deportation since the deportations started in Germany in early 2004. It was only few years after I started playing with the camera and editing some things. I thought it was an important issue but I was not able to make a story about it at the time. In any case, because of riots in 2004 no one was deported again, apart from few families, until 2010 when more than 10,000 Roma were deported from Germany alone.

When the first airplane with deportees arrived from Düsseldorf, eight families came out of the airport together with seven individuals (separated by deportation from their families) including the two brothers Selami and Kefaet. I was outside and filming around the people at the airport. The moment I heard Kefaet and Selami talking to the camera, I knew it was them -- I knew this was the story I wanted to tell about the deportation of about 10,000 Roma from just Germany.

Kefaet and Selami are not ordinary people and especially not ordinary Roma. They are very talented rap musicians, which is not typical in the Roma culture that I came from. They were sure they would not stay long in Kosovo - they had "stuff to do, back home, and lots of music to produce." Their passion for music, their determination to get out Kosovo, and the injustice they had to face being separated from their families, children, and friends, touched me and convinced me to bring their story out no matter what. Most of all, they turned every hardship they faced into sarcastic drama, which reinforced the injustice in their humorous style.

Following the two brothers took five years and I went through many twists and turns in my head over how I wanted to make the story complete. First, I followed their struggle in finding their new way of life in Kosovo, then the injustice of the local authorities, then their music, then ending up having them living in my house, as they had nowhere else to go, then them coming up with a new idea every day about how to get back home to Germany -- the list is very long. . . . With hindsight, I am able to see the similarities between Kefaet and Selami - all are rooted in fairytale mythology and the difficulties they had living in the everyday world in Kosovo.

In a way, *Trapped By Law* is like an accumulation of all the films I've made so far. I think I was heading toward a creative collision, full speed ahead. I have always said that I set out to make films about Roma because I am Roma myself and that Roma stories also deserve to be presented to the world. This collision is exciting because everything around me becomes so uncertain and we must not forget that the second enemy of creativity, after having 'good taste', is being at home."

Contact: romawood@gmail.com

What to read to get some useful background information?

★ To learn about the forced return of Roma to Kosovo

Read the report “Not welcome anywhere: Stop the forced return of Roma to Kosovo”, Amnesty International (2010).

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur70/011/2010/en/>

Sections we recommend in particular:

- Introduction
- Background section, pages 3-4
- Kosovo and the EU section, page 33

You can also read the report “Helplessness: Roma, Ashkalia and Egyptian Forced Returnees in Kosovo” written by Milena Tmava and Adem Beha for the RAD Center Prishtina (2009).

<http://radcenter.org/images/stories/publications/helplessness-%20rae%20forced%20returnees-rand-%20finale%20draft.pdf>

★ To learn about repatriation experienced by Kosovo Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian children

Read the report “No Place to Call Home: Repatriation from Germany to Kosovo as seen and experienced by Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children” produced by Unicef (2011).

https://www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/No_Place_to_Call_Home_English_2011.pdf

★ Key terms/definitions to keep in mind

- Migration
- Forced migration
- Asylum seeker
- Repatriation

Check this page of the IOM website <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

★ To go further, you can take a look at:

- “Kosovo national strategy for reintegration of repatriated persons in Kosovo”

http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/National_Strategy_for_Reintegration_of_Repatriated_Persons.pdf

Questions for discussion after the screening

1. What happens to Kefaet and Selami when they are sent to Kosovo?
2. What are their passions and how do they help them? How do you see Kefaet and Selami: trapped by law or able to get out from every trap?
3. In which moments do you think they feel trapped? How do they get out? What are the supports, and motivators for them (outer and inner)?
4. How can music be a means of combating social injustice and violations of human rights?
5. Why does director get involved in the film and how does it affect the story?
6. What do you think is happening with them today? Where are they and what are they doing?
7. Why do you think they were deported?
8. What do you know about the EU's reintegration policy?
9. How can we better protect the rights of minority communities and prevent forced migration?

Workshop outline ideas:

1. From Germany to Germany

Objective:

- Raise awareness of the situation of refugees

Participants form groups of 3-4 in which they make a poster or picture about the route of the brothers from the beginning to the end of movie, from Germany to Germany.

Tell them to portray the different stops they think are important. They can also write or represent at the different stops: Why did they go there? How do they feel at this moment? They can also imagine and portray what they think happened to the brothers until today.

Ask the groups to present their posters to each other.

2. Key moments

Objectives:

- Understand emotions of refugees
- Raise awareness of the situation of refugees

Ask the participants to think about the movie and choose a few situations in the story that they feel are important or key moments. Tell them to think about how the characters feel in those moments. Participants form groups of 4-5 and choose one situation from the film that they find very important. They will create a still image of that moment, acting as the sculptures of the characters. They should choose characters to represent and put the image together. Ask one group to stay in their poses without moving for a few seconds. The other participants observe the scene and interpret the image. Tell them that when you touch the shoulder of someone from the image, he/she should say one sentence in the role of that character about how the character feels or what he/she is thinking in this moment. At the end discuss with the participants how they felt during the exercise.

Tips

There are drama methods that are useful ways to explore and analyze a situation from a movie, to understand and also to engage with the motivation, thoughts, and feelings of the characters. Creating a still image requires participants to cooperate and visually represent a scene or moment from a movie using their bodies as sculptures. You can ask participants to create the images by cooperating with each other or you can ask a volunteer to be the sculptor who will position the others by moulding their bodies and/or showing them where and how to pose. It is important that they don't talk during the exercise and focus instead on their body posture, facial expression, and position in relation to the others. You can do these methods with all the participants having roles, or some participants can be observers of the image and you can discuss with them how they interpret the image, and what they would do differently. These methods can help the participants to listen more carefully to each other's thoughts as it requires them become active and express their ideas non-verbally.

3. Power of music

Objective:

- Raise awareness about the power of music in addressing human rights issues

Ask each participant to choose a song that he/she likes that has a strong message and/or relates to human rights. Those who want can present or play it to the group and explain their choices. Then ask them to form small groups, or they can work individually. Each group (or individual) should choose one song and rewrite lyrics (all or parts) to make the song about Kefaet and Selami. They can also highlight parts of the song that resonate with their story.

4. Personal stories

Objectives:

- Define migration, migrant, refugee
- Raise awareness of the diversity of reasons behind migration
- Share personal stories of migration

Print some of these migrant stories:

Refugee

<http://stories.unhcr.org/ahmets-story-cyprus-p52234.html>

<http://www.voicesofyouth.org/en/posts/my-climate-change-stories-about-a-climate-refugee>

EVS volunteer

<http://phirenamenca.eu/volunteer-profile-judit-ignacz/>

Erasmus: Choose one from here:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/repository/education/tools/docs/3million_en.pdf

Expat:

<http://globallivingmagazine.com/my-expat-story-jason-mueller/>

Migrant:

<https://iamamigrant.org/stories/guinea/ina>

<https://www.thelocal.fr/20170924/from-slum-dweller-to-senator-french-roma-woman-aims-high>

<https://iamamigrant.org/stories/hungary/jelena-0>

<https://iamamigrant.org/stories/france/radu-0>

<https://iamamigrant.org/stories/thailand/monica>

<https://iamamigrant.org/stories/albania/ana-and-eri>

<http://www.dw.com/en/roma-discriminated-in-serbia-unwanted-in-germany/a-18639037>

<http://phirenamenca.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Publication-Fall-Seminar-2014.pdf> - pages 18-19.

Ask participants to form groups and give one story to each group. Ask the groups to read the story in order to summarize their story afterwards for the others. You can also ask each group to make a poster about their story.

Questions for discussion:

- What is the difference between their situations?
- Which of these stories are about migration?
- Do you know any migrants?
- Have you ever been a migrant?
- What are the different reasons and goals for migration?

During discussion, clarify that all the stories are about migration. Migration is very diverse. You can use the definitions related to migration from the International Organization for Migration at <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>:

Migrant - IOM defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is. IOM concerns itself with migrants and migration-related issues and, in agreement with relevant States, with migrants who are in need of international migration services.

Migration - The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification."

Refugee - A person who, "owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."