

1. How did the idea of making this documentary come up? How long did it take you and did you find any difficulties? What does the title mean?

The main character was murdered in the mountains of northern Afghanistan on the 23rd or 24th of April 2005. I found out about this on the 2nd of May. On the 12th of May we were shooting material by her grave. We came back to this same place 16 months later. Working in Afghanistan you risk your life every minute. That is relative of course. Going out on the streets of Warsaw during the II World War was more dangerous. The title "Stone Silence" is symbolic. If someone watches the film carefully, they will easily interpret this title.

2. In the documentary, you chronicle the affair, the trial and the punishment and at the same time you try to answer what happened. So, what would be your personal answer?

Different orders, values and definitions of crime exist in the world.

3. Do you think that we, as Westerners, can understand the Muslim hierarchy of values? What struck you the most as you went deep to the idiosyncrasy of that small community?

Trying to understand the Muslim world, seems to me as one of the most important tasks which we should put up with. In the society itself nothing struck me, because it is generally hard to surprise me. Moments of surprise did appear though on the outskirts, when we asked the chief of the regional Afghan Independent Commission of Human Rights for help for the hypothetical lover of the main character, and he told us that this boy has to go to jail. The second time, when our interpreter told us after we arrived back to Kabul, that he did not believe that we will ever come back.

4. How can a doctor of humanities can explain incidents like that of Amina, and in general what is happening in Afghanistan and in other Muslim countries concerning mainly the status of women?

Knowledge does not help in explaining this crime. Being in Afghanistan I noticed, that Afghan an international organization do a lot, to change the situation of women in Afghanistan. I think everyone can help them in their own possible way.

5. Do you think documentary is a powerful mean of report and that it can push to changes? It is true that the last years we have an explosion of documentaries criticizing the injustices in the Muslim countries.

A documentary film is an artistic piece of art, with all its consequences known from art history. In certain situations it can be treated as an opinion tool. In "Stone Silence" I tried to avoid judgment. I tried to show that pain is a universal condition. That is how a large amount of audience perceived the film. I have personally seen a lot of films in Afghanistan and other Muslim countries. They are different, like their authors and stories they tell.

6. You are a producer of films and scriptwriter. What are the main subjects you deal with?

I produced a couple of films about Polish artists. It was an important experience for me. I was also the producer of the “Russia-Poland. New Gaze” project, in which students from Poland made short films in Russia, and Russian students – in Poland. These films have been shown in more than 20 countries and have received many awards. I organized a documentary course for the students of The Arts School in Kabul. They made short documentaries about “Kabul- my city” . The just finished film “Kites” directed by Beata Dzianowcz, is about their work. I would consider crossing borders as the main topic of my search, of course not only and not mainly in the geographic sense. I’m also interested in looking at the film in epistemological categories, as a tool for recognizing the world.

7. It is your debut as a director. Do you have other similar things in mind.

Yes.