

1984, When the Sun didn't Rise

1984, ਜਦੋਂ ਸੂਰਜ ਚੜ੍ਹਿਆ ਨਹੀਂ ਸੀ

A documentary film by

Teena Kaur Pasricha

Press Articles and Details on the film

[www.WhentheSundidntRise.wordpress.com](http://www.WhentheSundidntRise.wordpress.com)

teena@greeneearthpictures.in

# Synopsis and details of the film

- **1984, When the Sun didn't Rise**
- Duration- 57 minutes
- Production Country- India
- High Definition
  
- Aspect Ratio 16:9
- Link to the trailer- <https://vimeo.com/196537351>
  
- Languages- Punjabi, Hindi with English Subtitles
- First release
- **Synopsis**
- The film is a narrative of three Sikh women in the Widows Colony who lost their men in State planned killings when around 2733 Sikhs in Delhi and around 30,000 were killed all over India in three days after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.  
The film depicts the journey of these women on negotiating with memories of the past as they still battle challenges of the present times. The socio-political times are visited through the memories of the women.

# Details of the film

- **Awards Received**
- **Screening in upcoming Jagran Film festival in Mumbai.**
- **The film received the "Best Documentary Feature by an Emerging Filmmaker" held on March 18, 2017 in Washington DC Asia Pacific Film festival.**
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- Premiere in Indian Documentary and Short film festival, Kerala IDSFFK- Competition Documentary on June 18, 2017.
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- **Recipient of Asian Network Documentary Fund (AND) Fund in BUSAN International Film festival in 2015.**
- **Upcoming Screening in Jagran Film festival, Mumbai.**
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- Selected in Work in progress Lab, DOC WOK, DOCLEIPZIG, Germany 2014.
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- **Selected for pitching in DOCEGE Kolkata, 2012**
- [www.whenthesundidntrise.wordpress.com](http://www.whenthesundidntrise.wordpress.com)
- 
- Facebook page-
- <https://www.facebook.com/whenthesundidntrise/>
- <http://www.jamuura.com/blog/priya-naresh-teenaa-kaur-talk-about-their-docus-and-fund/>
- 
- **Production House-Green Earth Pictures**
- **Producer, Director- Teenaa Kaur**
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- [www.greenearthpictures.in](http://www.greenearthpictures.in)
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# India Today Magazine writes about the film 1984, When the Sun didn't Rise

## Explore legacy of 1984 anti-Sikh riots with Teena Kaur's *When The Sun Didn't Rise*

Independent filmmaker Teena Kaur travelled to Widows Colony in Tilak Vihar in Delhi to explore the legacy of the anti-Sikh riots-when 2,733 people were killed in the capital alone.



Suhani Singh

September 7, 2017 | UPDATED 09:39 IST

A + A -



## India Today Magazine writes about the film 1984, When the Sun didn't Rise



Having shown the documentary at the DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival in March and the Indian Documentary and Short Film Festival in Kerala in June, Teenaa is now seeking a grant to take it to colleges around the world. "The killings of minorities keep taking place. We have to stand for humanity," says Teenaa. "The film needs to be taken to the United Nations so this is recognised as a genocide of Sikhs." The three infamous days of killing between October 31 and November 2, 1984, cast a long shadow. The sorrow and trauma of Teenaa's maternal uncle, who

had his hair shorn by the mob during the turbulent period, led Kaur to revisit the dark chapter in India's history. While Kaur couldn't convince him to recount his tale, she is persistent and patient with the female residents of the colony. "It took time to win their trust," she says. "For them, people visit on October 31 every year and never return. They wanted to know why I kept coming back."

Kuldeep Kaur is one of the few who shares her tale, a rare case of a survivor who got justice. Having witnessed the murder of her husband, she took to courts to ensure that five perpetrators got life imprisonment.

Calling the colony a "sorority of sadness and resignation", Teenaa finds the most moving example of the legacy of the mass killings with the story of the widow Meena

# Profile- Teena Kaur Pasricha

- Teena Kaur Pasricha is an independent Director and Screenwriter having a wide range of experience in documentary genres Social Justice to Environmental. Credits here include National Geographic, Fox History, DD India.
- She was awarded the highly prestigious fellowship by Time Warner foundation supported Asia Society, New York for her first feature film screenplay “The Red Autumn” in 2013-14.
- Her debut independent documentary
- ‘1984, When the Sun didn’t Rise’ is the recipient of Busan International Film Festival’s prestigious fund called Asian Network and Documentary fund or “AND” Fund in 2015. Selected for Work in Progress Lab of “DOC WOK” of Doc Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animated Films, Germany in 2014 and the trailer was pitched in DOCEdge, Kolkata in 2012.
- It received the “BEST DOCU. FEATURE award” in DC Asia Pacific Film festival, USA on March 18, 2017. The film premiered in India in IDSFFK Kerala on June 18, 2017.
- ‘The deer, tree and me’ is a documentary, was nominated for Best Documentary in Mumbai Intl. film festival, 2016. It was premiered in SIGNS Intl film festival, Kochi 2015, Kolkata Intl. film festival.
- [Thedeertreeandme.strikingly.com](http://Thedeertreeandme.strikingly.com)  
IAWRT film festival, 2016. Her upcoming Documentary film “The Woods Are Calling” is based on a transformational story of tribal hunters who ban hunting to save their forest and an endangered bird called ‘Blyth’s Tragopan’.  
[www.greenearthpictures.in](http://www.greenearthpictures.in)

lms/theatre/music

INDULGE  
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS  
FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2017 | KOCHI

screening

# Denial of justice

Filmmaker Teena Kaur brings her hard-hitting documentary on the survivors of the 1984 Sikh pogrom to IDSFFK

FILM festivals in the state are almost always marred by controversy. The 10th annual International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK) is no exception. Though Mumbai-based Teena Kaur Pasricha's 1984, *When the Sun Didn't Rise* has been approved for screening in Thiruvananthapuram, the filmmaker is deeply saddened that The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has denied permission to showcase three campus protest films: *In the Shade of Fallen Chinar*, *The Unbearable Being of Lightness* and *March, March, March*.

Teena, whose previous feature *In Symphony with Earth* was

picked up by *National Geographic*, explains, "Freedom of expression should never be curbed. Be it films about Kashmir's youth, Rohith Vemula's suicide or JNU protests, our authorities need to stop operating from a place of fear. We should learn from history. This is similar to how Prime Minister Indira Gandhi quelled religious leader Bhindranwale's voice during the '80s, which eventually lead to Operation Blue Star and her subsequent assassination which perpetrated the three-day-long genocide of the Sikh community in Delhi and other parts of India."

## Souls left behind

The hour-long film, which took five years to complete, questions why, even after 33 years, the judicial system has failed to punish a



Teena interviewing the residents of Widow's Colony



The departed



Mohan, a survivor



Teena Kaur

large percentage of the individuals who committed these grave acts. It also focusses on the wives and children of the 3,000 odd men who lost their lives in the massacre (in Delhi alone), most of whom are illiterate and live inside a compound known as the Widows Colony.

"Via interviews with these resilient women—who witnessed the brutal massacre of their men at the hands of frenzied mobs and are now witnessing their children

amongst those who are trying to forget one of India's darkest periods. All of this, boils down to discrimination and cultural identity," explains the FTII alumnus.

She stresses that despite certain tones, the narrative is observational. "To maintain neutrality, I've even interviewed politician Jagdish Tytler, who despite being acquitted by the court was allegedly involved in the atrocities, and documented his version of the events," adds Teena, who is already working on a new project called *The Woods Are Calling*, which tells the story of eco-conservation efforts amongst Nagaland's headhunter tribes.

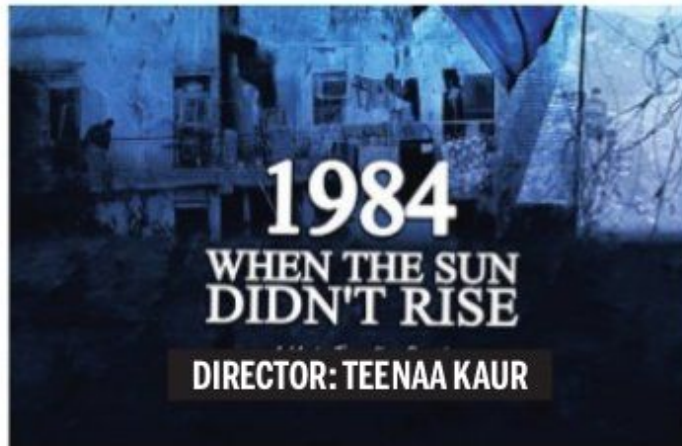
—Anoop Menon

## Curtain raiser

Helmed by National Award-winning director Kamal, the four-day-long film IDSFFK will host screenings at multiple venues across Thiruvananthapuram. Besides over 150 features being showcased in categories like long documentaries, international and campus

# The Indian Express- June 19- Review of the Film

## Featuring the sorrow of the bereaved



**T**eenaa Kaur's "1984, When the Sun didn't rise" is about the experience of three women on the 1984 Sikh Massacre.

It depicts the pain and suffering that the women survivors had to undergo following the brutal murder and killing of their husbands by neighbours.

The women were newly married and had small children at the time of the event.

The entire documentary is centred around the experience of the women rehabilitated in a colony for the victims of the 84 riots. But no amount

of money or support from the Government has been able to compensate their loss of loved ones and the struggle they had to put up over the years as told by each one of them.

Some lives have not been able to recuperate after their children turned to drugs and lack of opportunity to study and get good jobs.

Archival footage of the political and social events in the 80's and interviews with one of the prime accused in the massacre is used to portray in its entirety the events that marred the lives of thousands of Sikhs.



# Scroll.in

DOCUMENTARY CHANNEL

## Question that drove film on 1984 anti-Sikh riots: 'If we don't talk about our history, who will?'

Teena Kaur Pasricha's '1984, When The Sun Didn't Rise' revisits the aftermath of the Delhi riots that followed the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

by *Damini Kulkarni*

Published Jun 16, 2017 · 01:30 pm



1984, When The Sun Didn't Rise/Teena Kaur Pasricha

When Teena Kaur Pasricha first read about the anti-Sikh violence that followed the death of Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984, she was struck by the lack of awareness about its aftermath.

"I was devastated when I read about 1984, and the biggest question to me was: Why has there been no film on this subject?" Pasricha told *Scroll.in*. "If we don't talk about our history or culture, then who else will?"

Pasricha was particularly moved by the thought of the women who lost their husbands and homes in the violence. "I wondered how they came out of their trauma and started healing and negotiating with daily life," she said.

Pasricha decided to address this paucity of narratives with her documentary *1984, When The Sun Didn't Rise*. The 57-minute documentary chronicles the lives of women who live in Delhi's Widow Colony, which houses the widows of the Sikh men who were killed in the violence which continued for four days after Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

The documentary took five years to produce, and was partially funded by Busan International Film Festival's Asian Network and Documentary Fund, and Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animated Films's fellowship titled Doc Wok. It will be screened at the [International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala](#) on June 18.

# The Hindu, June 19, 2017- IDSFFK

9/18/2017

A searing look at the human cost of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots - KERALA - The Hindu

She says that but for *Amu*, a film by Shonali Bose, and some amateur films made by members of the Sikh community and uploaded on YouTube, the 1984 incidents have been largely ignored in the visual format. “People had started forgetting about what happened. Only a few members of the Sikh community remembered it. It was painful, and it was convenient to forget it and move on.”

Teena then started working on the documentary. “I wanted the incidents to be remembered in the history of India so that discrimination on the basis of identity does not happen again.”

Getting the women to open up was not easy. “I wanted to connect with them, get them to trust me so that I could tell their stories.”

Talking to the widows made her realise that they were very strong women who were capable of living with their memories and still take care of their families. She came to understand that the widows had only other widows for company. They had got material help, but rarely any empathy.

Teena also found herself being sucked into their accounts. “I found it difficult to separate myself from them. I had to pull myself out of their stories and become a filmmaker. This took a long time.”

The film-maker reveals how it took almost two years to document one widow’s story. “Every time, she talked about the 1984 incidents she would fall ill, and her family was against it. I would wait outside her house and wait for her to be ready - emotionally and mentally - to talk to me. And I could understand because it was disturbing even for me to hear their accounts.”

These vivid and searing accounts form the core of Teena’s documentary.

The documentary also dwells on the consequences of the violence, even on youth and young children who find it difficult to negotiate their memories of what happened. The film, which was made over five years, received the Busan International Film festival’s Asian Network and Documentary Fund.



POSTER

1984, When the Sun didn't Rise



BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE



[www.WhentheSundidntRise.in](http://www.WhentheSundidntRise.in)

Green Earth Pictures, India  
[www.greeneartpictures.in](http://www.greeneartpictures.in)