



Savyasaachi Jain

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Shores Far Away

Shores Far Away is the story of those who have experienced the shadowy and dangerous process of being smuggled halfway across the world.

Shot over 18 months, the documentary follows young men who have made the illegal journey from Punjab to Europe, or have tried and failed. It documents numerous aspects of the smuggling process, but its prime focus is the human condition of those who undertake the illegal journey.

Many of the travelling Punjabis do not complete their journeys. Some die on the way, or worse, disappear without a trace. The survivors are often caught and imprisoned in far-off places such as Moscow or Kiev. Many want to give up on their nightmare, but to their despair they seldom succeed.

The programme features interviews with key characters at different stages of their journey. Whether it's Hardeep in Punjab, Rinku and Balbir in Austria, or Shaukat in the UK, their story is the same. They recount the horror of their experiences – from close friends shot for failure to keep pace with the convoy of smuggled migrants to others who perished in the cold Ukrainian winters only for their friends to strip the corpses and steal their clothing.

The camera meets them in refugee camps and detention centres, in visa offices and at work illegally, in jail, at home, or just living on the streets. Back home, parents are interviewed as they wait for news of a son who has undertaken the illegal journey. Some know in their hearts that they may probably wait forever.

"The irregular migrants were very forthright in expressing themselves. They laid bare their private emotions and thoughts, and shared songs and writings about their experiences. So clear were they about what they wanted to say that we decided not to add anything from our side and let their voices do the talking. This film is their expression," says Savyasaachi Jain, Director, *Shores Far Away*.

Film Credits:

Camera: **Vijay Kutty**

Research: **Mimmy Jain**
Vijay Kutty

Editing: **Ashish Sah**
Anand Rao

Music: **Sameer**
Pankaj Awasthi

Assistant Directors: **Shivanti Kaul**
Amit Kumar

Director: **Savyasaachi Jain**

An IntegriTV production

Brief Note about the Director:

Savyasaachi Jain is an independent film-maker and media trainer. He specializes in areas of conflict and has done a lot of work in Kashmir. He is a recipient of the Commonwealth Vision Award.

Between 2003 and 2006, he was Project Editor of The EU-India Media Initiative on HIV/AIDS and of The EU-India Documentary Initiative on Diversity and Conflict Transformation. He is currently India Projects Coordinator for The Thomson Foundation, the UK-based media training and consultancy organization and can be reached at saachi@integritv.com or savyasaachi.jain@thomsonfoundation.org.

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