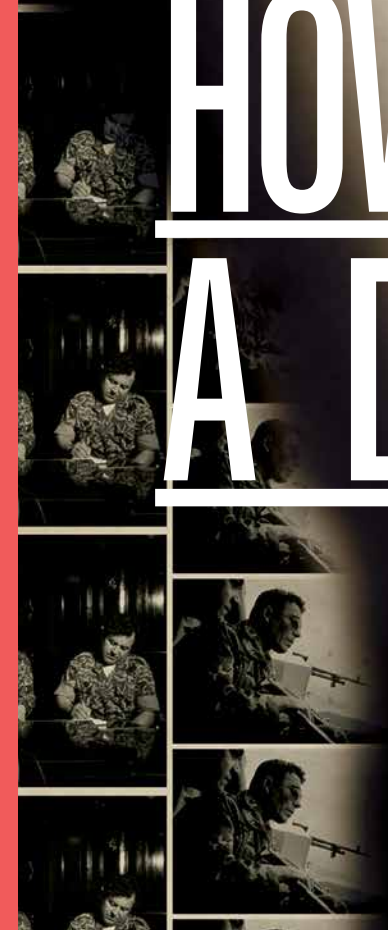
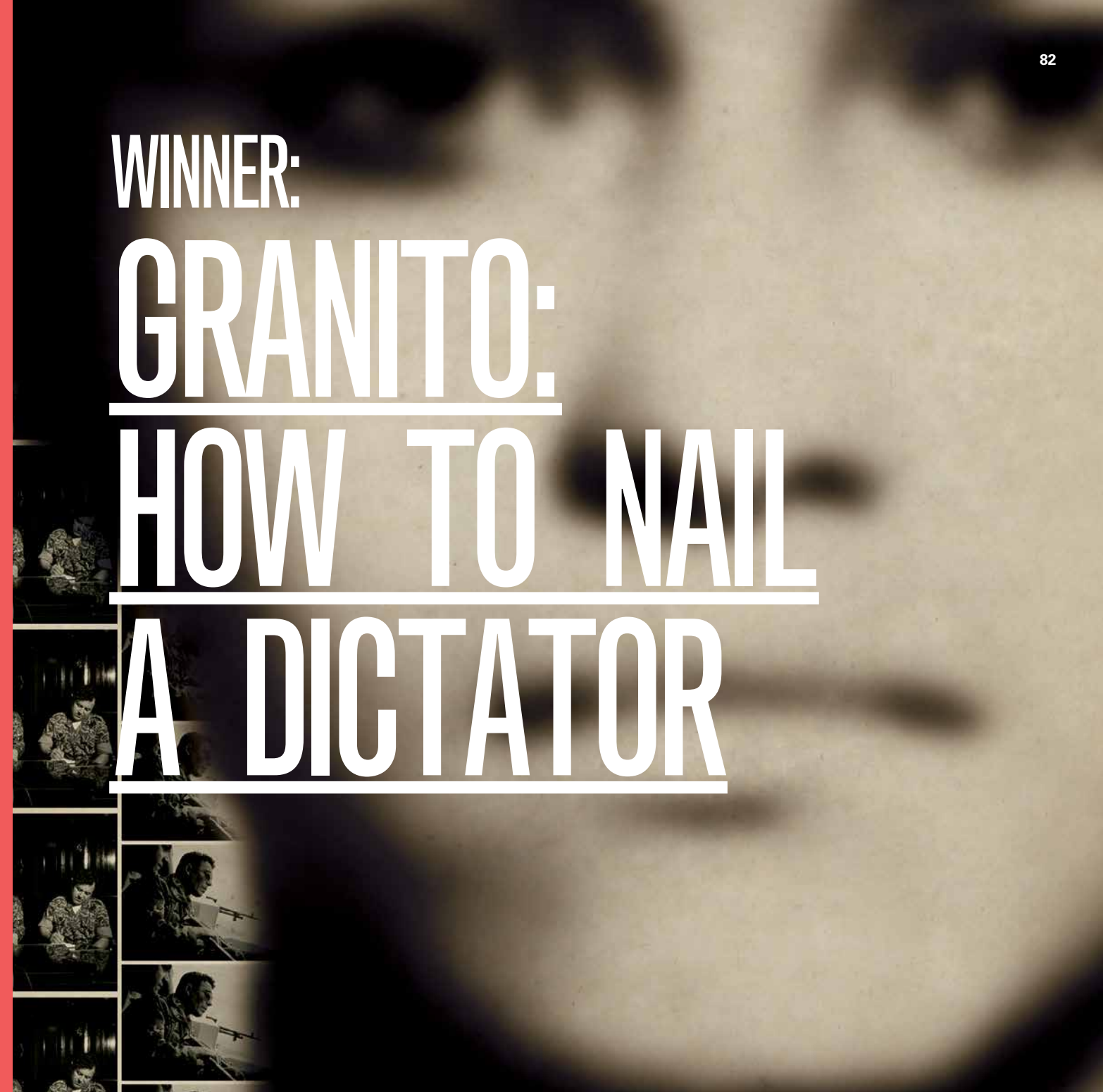


WINNER:
GRANITO:
HOW TO NAIL
A DICTATOR

With the conviction of a dictator, *Granito* is a testament to the power of documentary film.





GRANITO

As part political thriller, part memoir, director Pamela Yates tells the extraordinary story of how her 1983 documentary, *When the Mountains Tremble*, provided key evidence for bringing the indictment for genocide against former dictator General Efraín Ríos Montt for his brutal war against the country's Maya people in the 1980s. Weaving together the story threads of seven protagonists over 30 years, each add their own 'granito', their tiny grain of sand, to a nation's fight to bring a dictator to justice and give the Maya people their day in court.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAID

"The film is easy to root for; as the filmmaker revisits 16mm outtakes, *Granito* becomes both a humanitarian legal thriller and a quest to find justice through cinema." —Village Voice



THE CAMPAIGN

CONTEXT

In 1982, first-time filmmaker Pamela Yates went to Guatemala to make a documentary about a hidden war. Her youth and open curiosity persuaded General Ríos Montt, his army and leftist guerrillas to give her unique access. The resulting film *When The Mountains Tremble* (1983) revealed that the Guatemalan army was killing Maya civilians.

In 2005 lawyers prosecuting an international genocide case asked Yates to comb through that old footage and its outtakes for possible evidence to build a case against General Ríos Montt, who spoke to her on camera three decades before.

In Guatemala, as in the wider world, there is scant knowledge of the genocide of the Mayas, the memory of which has been suppressed and officially denied for 30 years. The goals of the *Granito* campaign were devised within the context of an economic and political elite in Guatemala that controls virtually all media and by extension also controls the historical narrative. Countering this narrative and being a galvanising force for the restoration of collective memory defined the goals of the campaign.



Dana Lixenberg / skylight.is

IMPACT DYNAMICS

As a tool for analysing campaign strategies, BRITDOC has devised what we call the Four Impact Dynamics; broad categories for the kinds of change you can make in the world. This has been developed by studying the films that we have worked with as well as working with NGOs and activists to understand how they conceptualise their work. More information on the impact dynamics can be found in impactguide.org. Here we apply the impact dynamics to the campaign goals of *Granito*.

CHANGING BEHAVIOURS

Actively mobilising people to do different not just think different, whether that's to buy or boycott, donate or volunteer.

CHANGING MINDS

Mass awareness and understanding – creating a shift in public attitudes.

Raise awareness about the Guatemalan genocide of 1982 and the ongoing quest for justice, and in doing so fight the pervasive silence that persists around these issues.

Target audience: Guatemalans from communities most affected by the armed conflict, including both people who survived the genocide, as well as the younger generations who were not yet born.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Grassroots organising – providing the focal point around which people come together.

Open spaces for participants, viewers, and partners to contribute to the collective memory of Guatemalan armed conflict by sharing their stories, thereby strengthening counter-narratives of the genocide and cultivating intergenerational dialogue.

Target audience: Guatemalans from communities most affected by the armed conflict.

Bolster the work of partner organisations, in both Guatemala and internationally, who fight impunity and work to achieve a more just and equitable future by providing valuable media assets and tools.

Target audience: Partner organisations and their constituents, in Guatemala, Europe and North America, who used the film as a valuable media tool to raise awareness around the genocide and bolster their efforts promote justice.

Build capacity within the Guatemalan production, translation, and engagement team in order to strengthen the skills of local media makers and activists who can continue producing digital content that promotes truth and reconciliation in Guatemala.

Target audience: Guatemalans from communities most affected by the armed conflict.

CHANGING STRUCTURES

Top down change – whether in politics or business, directly influencing law and policy to change the context.

Provide support for the justice process in Guatemala.

Target audience: Members of the international human rights and legal communities who are working globally to promote struggles for justice, particularly for Indigenous Peoples.

HOW THE CAMPAIGN WORKED

The team at Skylight employed an aggregate approach to engagement, amassing many small parts that together constitute a larger push for justice. The phrase that gave its name to the film, “Granito de arena” (tiny grain of sand), captures the idea that everybody has their own tiny grain of sand to add to societal transformation.

The impact of *Granito* can therefore be understood within the context of an ecosystem of media created over the past 30 years:

- The first feature-length documentary *When The Mountains Tremble* (1982)
- *Granito: How to Nail A Dictator* (2011)
- *Granito* translated into the Maya languages Ixil and K’iche (2013)
- The companion digital project designed to restore the collective memory of the genocide: *Granito: Every Memory Matters* (GMEM) (2012)
- The 23-webisode series *Dictator in the Dock* (2013)
- The upcoming film *500 Years* which explores the battle for the narrative in Guatemala after the Ríos Montt trial

The case against General Ríos Montt was prosecuted in two jurisdictions, Guatemala and Spain; Spain was able to use the principle of universal jurisdiction to try a non-Spanish national for crimes

committed outside its borders. In both countries, Skylight’s footage was used as evidence and as a tool for partner organisations to promote the course of justice.

SPAIN

The genocide case against General Ríos Montt was initiated by Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchú in 1999 in the Spanish National Court after it was blocked in Guatemalan courts. That is where footage from the 1982 film *When The Mountains Tremble* was first used as evidence against him.

Using the principle of universal jurisdiction, Spain issued international arrest warrants for the eight military leaders and police officials named in Menchú’s lawsuit including General Ríos Montt.

While Spanish arrest warrants were not honoured in Guatemala, the case went ahead in 2005, and *When The Mountains Tremble*

“THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT VIDEOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE HAS BEEN ADMITTED IN A SPANISH COURT OF LAW, SO IT ESTABLISHES AN IMPORTANT PRECEDENT. BY THE VERY NATURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS LITIGATION, ALMOST ALL EVIDENCE IS INDIRECT OR CIRCUMSTANTIAL. SO [THE FILM] IS PERHAPS THE MOST DIRECT PROOF ONE COULD PROVIDE. WE HAVE A THEORY OF COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ABUSES, AND HE ADMITS CLEARLY THAT HE IS IN CONTROL AND THAT HE KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE DOING.”

— **Almudena Bernabeu,**
Lawyer on Montt case

was used as evidence in the trial, in which Pamela Yates also testified.

The Center for Justice and Accountability used *Granito* to build their case before the Spanish National Court, which also issued an indictment and arrest warrant for General Ríos Montt and five other actors. The case remains open, which prevents the defendants from travelling outside Guatemala and being extradited to Spain to stand trial.



Dana Lixenberg / skylight.is

GUATEMALA

The Spanish legal process eventually sparked a new push for justice in Guatemala, where impunity had ruled for decades. The Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH) took advantage of the 2010 appointment of a new Attorney General in Guatemala, Claudia Paz y Paz, who was committed to pursuing human rights abuses in the courts.

The Association of Justice and Reconciliation, an organisation of genocide survivors, approached CALDH to ask them to represent them in their claims. CALDH used *Granito*, and in particular the outtake of General Ríos Montt's interview, to help persuade Paz y Paz that there was sufficient evidence to bring General Ríos Montt to trial.

General Ríos Montt's trial in Guatemala began in March 2013 and unedited interviews from *Granito* were shown in open court in their entirety as evidence.

During the trial the film team initiated a letter writing campaign to the US Ambassador Arnold Chacon to urge him to attend the General Ríos Montt trial as an acknowledgment for the US role in Guatemala and its intention to make amends. In early 2012 Pamela had interviewed Chacon who said "There was no genocide in Guatemala." While he did not attend

during the initial weeks of the trial, due to pressure from advocacy groups, including *Granito's* letter writing campaign, Chacón changed his plans and attended. The US Embassy subsequently press released its support for a "credible, independent, transparent and impartial" justice process.

COMMUNITY BUILDING IN GUATEMALA

At a more structural level the team were keen to disseminate history to Guatemalans and provide safe spaces for them to share memories.

Sobrevivencia Cultural (Cultural Survival) is leading the Maya Community Radio movement to defend their land, language and culture. In 2013 *Granito* worked with Cultural Survival, which advocates for the rights of indigenous peoples, to serialise *Granito* into 12x10 minute radio shows. This enabled them to reach a wider audience in the highlands where radio is a vital communication tool. Skylight worked with a Community Radio Co-ordinator, César Gómez, who managed a team of volunteers to deliver flash drives of the radio shows around the country's community radio stations as the General Ríos Montt trial was taking place.

The very act of broadcasting on community radio is an activist act which empowers local communities

to tell their stories; the government has tried to criminalise this by presenting a bill to Parliament that would see all operators of unlicensed stations face up to 10 years in prison. Moreover it has seized spectrum back and given it to commercial stations, owned by the political and economic elite.

GRANITO: EVERY MEMORY MATTERS

Simultaneously, the team recognised the importance of capturing historical memories, and created the multimedia oral history project *Granito: Every Memory Matters* (GEMM). It was soft launched at the Guatemala premiere at the National Theatre and *Granito's* Guatemalan co-producer, Beatriz Gallardo, set up screenings and sent screeners to universities, high schools, churches, community groups, indigenous rights organisations, tech workshops, citizen journalism workshops and women's leadership trainings to gather stories and memories of the genocide.

Skylight has developed two online guides, in English and Spanish, in conjunction with key outreach partners, for guidance in using the site, including easy video recording tips. Working with partners has been key to gathering memories; the primary partner, the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, trained staff members who were going out into the field to conduct

exhumations to collect memories as they went, using compact Zoom cameras provided by GEMM. Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala has developed a joint film and *Every Memory Matters* community/house meeting screening kit. These partners not only make it part of their work gathering memories, they also incentivise others to do so through 'horizontal', peer-to-peer training. There are secondary partners as well – organisations dedicated to gathering memories within their group: The Maya-K'iche Organization of New Bedford, MA and the Central American Legal Assistance, of New York.

The hard launch of the site, around the PBS/POV premiere, was supported by free streaming of *Granito* and *When The Mountains Tremble*, in Spanish and English for four months, on which the geoblock had been removed, allowing Guatemalans to view these films. In addition a community discussion guide pointing to GEMM and a Lesson Plan for high school grades 9-12 centered around it supported the launch targeting the Guatemalan diaspora in the US.

In the long term the direct leadership of GEMM will be transferred to a Guatemalan organisation, Memorial Para la Concordia, which promotes human rights and reconciliation



Granito

THE CAMPAIGN

in Guatemala. Julio Solórzano Foppa, chair of Memorial Para la Concordia, is the key partner in this collaboration; the son of reformist former president Juan José Arévalo and the famous poet Aláide Foppa. Julio lost two brothers in the armed conflict, and his mother was kidnapped and disappeared in 1980. The site continues to evolve in line with the needs of the memory givers, and the site was redesigned to make it easier to use in a Guatemalan setting, for example, a recent function to add a memory anonymously takes into account the re-militarisation of the highlands areas. Skylight is also assisting with fundraising efforts for GEMM's future.

STRATEGIC SCREENINGS

A number of organisations working on governance and accountability used *Granito* in their work:

- The National Security Archive used *Granito* as the centerpiece in their Lima, Peru conference in 2011; this was an invitation-only event of 40 high level judges, prosecutors and jurists from the region focusing on how to prepare and use forensic evidence in war crimes trials, using *Granito* as an example of domestic and international actors working together to do so.
- The International Center for Transitional Justice screened

Granito at a conference for indigenous leaders of the Americas to discuss transitional justice, reparations strategies, and political leadership.

- The Center for Justice and Accountability developed the legal strategy for Rigoberta Menchú's genocide case against General Ríos Montt, and use *Granito* extensively in their outreach and fundraising work.

“WHAT GRANITO DOES SO WELL IS TO FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND, THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. IT DOES A VERY STRONG JOB OF HUMANISING THEIR STRUGGLE AND WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE CHANGE IN A COUNTRY STILL EMBROILED IN VIOLENCE. AUDIENCES FIND THAT COMPELLING, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE FILM HAS A LOT OF HOPE BUILT INTO IT.”

John Biaggi
Director of Human Rights Watch



CAMPAIGN IMPACT

POLITICAL IMPACT

Most strikingly, the film can be said to have contributed to the political will to help convict a dictator, the first time that anyone has been held responsible for a genocide of indigenous peoples. The outtakes from *When The Mountains Tremble* established General Ríos Montt's command control, essential for a conviction but often difficult to prove in court.

The subsequent 'vacating' of the verdict only served to fully expose the apparatus of impunity used to protect the powerful. But the legal record remains:

"This decision struck a crushing blow to survivors and human rights advocates and raises serious concerns about the independence and integrity of the judiciary. But it is clearly not the end of the fight. General Ríos Montt can never undo Judge Barrios's declaration of his guilt, and survivors and their supporters will continue their struggle for justice."

— Boston Review

As a response to the vacating of the verdict on a technicality, and in order to preserve the historical record that a verdict of genocide had been reached, an online community was established by Marta Casaús Arzú, a Guatemalan who had testified about racism against the Mayas in the trial. Skylight enabled

Arzú to migrate her email list to a facebook page and build it into a global act of commemoration one year after the verdict, partnering with activists and organisations in Guatemala to read parts of the verdict against General Ríos Montt and upload their readings as well as well as films of roundtables, speeches and marches, which were also uploaded

As an example of how significant the verdict is to Latin American society, a short film was made by a group in Buenos Aires responding to the verdict at sites related to their own dirty war, which was uploaded to this page.

Beyond the General Ríos Montt verdict, *Granito* contributed to a political opening to enable other trials to go forward. There are now more indictments and convictions in the past three years than in the previous 30 years for crimes committed by the military in the 1980s. The Attorney General's office in Guatemala created a Human Rights Section that plans to move forward 12 emblematic cases.

BUILDING CAPACITY AMONG PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

As *Granito* reveals, only a small percentage of the victims of the armed conflict (estimated at 200,000 people) have been identified, and this is central to the struggle to record the genocide. The Forensic

Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG) featured in the film has screened *Granito* as part of their "My Name is Not XX" campaign, an initiative to encourage the donation of DNA to their lab.

This campaign is focused on Guatemala but FAFG has also undertaken a multi-city tour of the US to show the film to the diaspora; they report an increase in donations after screening the film. Furthermore it is often used as an internal tool to boost morale and remind staff of the importance of their work.

In May 2012 Fredy Peccerelli (FAFG) and Kate Doyle (National Security Archive) were presented with the ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism (\$50,000 each) for their exceptional work leading to the advancement of human rights. The jurors later told Skylight that seeing Fredy and Kate in *Granito* convinced them to give them the award.

In the case of the translated versions, the Guatemalan volunteers who translated and recorded the film stated it helped them deepen their knowledge of their respective Maya languages. The makers of the Tz'utuhil language version – two volunteers who had attended a screening at a Massachusetts Community College - told the team that the process has also helped them to recuperate vocabulary that



Daniel Hernández-Salazar

was being lost amongst youth. The Academy of Maya Languages in Guatemala has joined as a partner in the process. The lessons learned from making the Ixil and K'iche versions have helped *Granito* to create a working template, and the expert translator teams are now available to support the translation of the film into the remaining 20 Maya languages. Members of these teams are now inspired to translate other important documents from the genocide trial into Maya languages, a link in the chain to building capacity amongst the Maya population.

"It's really nice for me, because I learned to improve my proficiency in the language. Because for a lot of us Ixil, we speak our language a little bit, but we interject a lot of Spanish into the mix. That's why I liked doing this, because it allowed me to improve at the language and keep its heritage alive."

— Elena Guzman, who recorded the voice of Almodena in the Maya-Ixil language version.

Enabled by their distribution model, Skylight supports the organisational fundraising efforts of several partners by donating DVDs so they can take 100% of the profits. By way of example: The Rigoberta Menchú Foundation sells DVDs of *Granito* at their headquarters in Guatemala City. At events where Rigoberta

Menchú, as a Nobel Peace Laureate and indigenous leader, travels the world speaking at engagements, NISGUA (the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala) has used a signed DVD of *Granito* as well as a signed poster as a prize in its annual raffles; The Samuel Villatoro Foundation (a family foundation that commemorates their disappeared father who was positively identified by the FAFG exhumation) sells DVDs of *Granito* in its Museum of Commemoration, for which Skylight has made a short film.



Daniel Hernández-Salazar

CINEMA



US theatrical **Guatemala** cinema premiere at National Theatre to audience of 2500 – tickets sold out in 2 days.

ONLINE TRAILER

Granito Trailers

33,681 views

Excerpt: Filmic Evidence

13,981 views

WEBSITE

35,310

unique visitors to *Granito* page, housed on Skylight website.

POV Companion Site:

78,753

unique visitors since its creation in March 2012.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Facebook page is bilingual with a reach of over

f 126,000

There are 2 million Facebook accounts in Guatemala, and Facebook Insights shows high activity on the page coming from Guatemala and the diaspora, primarily New York.

VOD

The following is combined data from streams on POV, Vimeo on Demand, and New Day Digital.

Granito (English): **64,513** views
Granito (Spanish): **7,913** views
When The Mountains Tremble (English): **22,420** views
When The Mountains Tremble (Spanish): **3,827** views

The webisodes of *Dictator in the Dock* provided transparency of the judicial process and were highly viewed content; between Skylight's educational site in English, now behind a pay wall with a comprehensive educational hub, and the Spanish version which is embedded for free in various NGO and news sites, it is estimated that at least one of the episodes has been viewed 1000+ times. "The Verdict", the synthesis of the trial in 14 minutes is the most used, viewed and embedded.

The team employed an alternative distribution model whereby campaign goals were given more weight than commercial goals. In addition to making the film available for streaming on POV, Vimeo on Demand, and New Day Digital, as well as for purchase in DVD form, the following activities were carried out to ensure a widespread distribution of *Granito* and its ecosystem of media to the audiences who needed it:

1 *When The Mountains Tremble*, *Granito* and the *Dictator in the Dock* series are available online for free and as DVDs to all Guatemalan human rights NGOs and educational institutions.

2 The *Dictator in the Dock* webisodes were also embedded on the sites of other organisations such as Open Society Justice Initiative, Center for Justice and Accountability, International Center for Transitional Justice, Guatemala's Center for Human Rights Legal Action and the online news site plazapublica.com.gt It has also been translated into Maya Ixil and Maya K'iche and will be distributed online and on the ground for free.

3 Skylight gave master DVDs of both films to the lead bootlegger in Guatemala, 'El Buki', so that he can make quality pirate versions for his customers in Guatemala. He distributes to all of the street markets in Guatemala, creating original cover artwork which reflects the Maya culture, adding his own tag line to the title: "The Greatest Story Never Told". The film sells for US \$1.25 on the streets of Guatemala. A bootlegged *Granito* was included in a showcase at the Museum of the Maya Ixil people.

This work is partly supported by academic screening packages available at different levels via the Skylight website incorporating workshops and speaking engagements.



AWARDS

- **Icaro Central American Film Festival in Guatemala** Best International Documentary
- **Geneva International Human Rights Film Festival** Peace & Reconciliation Prize In Honor Of Sergio Vieira De Mello
- **Paris International Human Rights Film Festival** Grand Prix For Best Creative Documentary
- **Traverse City Film Festival** Founders Award
- **Politics on Film Festival, Washington DC** Grand Jury Award
- **Overseas Press Club Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Documentary** Honorable Mention
- **Emmy Award 2013** Nominated for outstanding Investigative Journalism-Long Form

1980

1990

2000

2006

2010

2012

2013

2014

1982

Under General Ríos Montt's presidency in 1982 and 1983, the Guatemalan government exacted its most brutal campaign against the country's indigenous populations.

1992

Rigoberta Menchú wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

1999

Rigoberta Menchú files a lawsuit in Spanish Supreme Court against Ríos Montt and other officials linked to killings in Guatemala during civil war.

REAL WORLD EVENTS

2006

Spanish government requests extradition of eight Guatemalan military leaders and police officials based on universal jurisdiction law. The Guatemalan Constitutional Court denies the request.

2006

Hearings begin in a Madrid court.

JAN 2012

General Ríos Montt loses immunity as his term in Congress ends.

MAR 2013

New Guatemala Attorney General prosecutes Montt in a Guatemalan court.

APR 2013

Daniel Pedro Mateo a founder of community radio station Radio Snuq Jolom Konob is murdered in Huehuetenango.

1982

Pamela Yates films *When The Mountains Tremble*. Rigoberta Menchú, an unknown Maya woman, is the storyteller.

JAN 1984

When The Mountains Tremble wins at first Sundance Film Festival.

THE FILM

2003

Lawyers prosecuting an international genocide case ask Yates to comb through old footage and its outtakes for possible evidence to build a case against, General Ríos Montt, who spoke to her on camera two decades before.

2003

Production starts on *Granito*.

2005

Almudena Bernabeu, a lawyer prosecuting an international genocide case, again asks Yates to review old footage for possible evidence against General Ríos Montt.

DEC 2009

When The Mountains Tremble is used as evidence in Spanish court hearings, and proceedings are filmed for *Granito*.

JAN 2011

Granito Sundance premiere.

SEPT 2011

US theatrical release. El Buki bootlegs the film for DVD sale in Guatemala.

MAR 2012

Guatemala premiere.

JULY 2012

PBS POV broadcast.

APR 2014

Ixil language premiere in plaza central, Nebaj, Guatemala.

THE CAMPAIGN

SEPT 2011

ICTJ indigenous leaders conference. National Security Archive conference for Latin American jurists.

MAR 2012

Soft launch of companion digital project, *Granito: Every Memory Matters*.

JULY 2012

Hard launch of companion digital project, *Granito: Every Memory Matters*.

MAR 2013

Granito radio series is broadcast on community radio in Guatemala highlands. Online broadcast of Dictator in the Dock webisodes.

MAY 2014

One Year After the Verdict commemorative community is established..

IMPACT & ACHIEVEMENTS

MAY 2012

Fredy Peccerelli (Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala) and Kate Doyle (National Security Archive) are presented with ALBA/Puffin Award for Human Rights Activism.

MAY 2013

10 May: General Ríos Montt is convicted of genocide in a Guatemalan court and sentenced to 80 years in prison. Ten days later the conviction is overturned by the country's constitutional court on procedural grounds. Ríos Montt is scheduled to be re-tried in 2015.



THE TEAM



DIRECTOR

Pamela Yates is a co-founder of Skylight Pictures, a company dedicated to creating films and digital media tools that advance awareness of human rights and the quest for justice by implementing multi-year outreach campaigns designed to engage, educate and activate social change. She is the Director of the Sundance Special Jury Award-winning *When the Mountains Tremble*; the Executive Producer of the Academy Award-winning *Witness to War*, and the Director of *State of Fear: The Truth About Terrorism*, which has been translated into 47 languages and broadcast in 154 countries. Her film, *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* was used as forensic evidence in the General Ríos Montt genocide conviction in Guatemala.



PRODUCER

Paco de Onís grew up in several Latin American countries during a time of dictatorships. He is a Producer and partner at Skylight, a human rights media organisation dedicated to creating documentary films and innovative media tools for long-term strategies to advance social and economic justice. During the past decade he has produced several feature-length documentary films (skylight.is/films) that include *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* and *The Reckoning: The Battle for the International Criminal Court*. He has also produced companion interactive digital platforms to advance awareness and change on the issues illustrated in the films: *Granito: Every Memory Matters* (to restore the collective memory of genocide in Guatemala); *IJCentral* (to promote global rule of law); and *Dictator in the Dock* (a 24-webisode series and resource hub on the genocide trial of former dictator General Efraín Ríos Montt).



EDITOR

Peter Kinoy heads the post-production work at Skylight. Since founding Skylight Pictures with Pamela Yates in 1981 he produced and edited *When the Mountains Tremble* (winner of the Special Jury Prize at the first Sundance Film Festival) as well as its 2011 sequel, *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*. In the course of his career he has also edited a series of international justice documentaries that have been used in outreach and education around the world: *The Reckoning: The Battle for the International Criminal Court* and *State of Fear*, a feature-length documentary about Peru's "war on terror". Kinoy has mentored emerging filmmakers at City College of New York, Columbia University, Casa Comal in Guatemala, and at the International School of Film and Television in Cuba. He was a founder of The Media College of the University of the Poor in the US. He is a member of The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

ORGANOGRAM

TRADITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

PAMELA / DIRECTOR

+ Skylight Principal

PACO / PRODUCER

+ Skylight Principal

PETER

+ Skylight Principal

NORA & FLANNERY

+ Interns

IMPACT CAMPAIGN

BEATRIZ

+ Campaign Co-ordinator, Guatemala

MATILDE

+ Ixil Translator
+ Co-ordinator

MARLENY

+ K'iche Translator
+ Co-ordinator

ALEJANDRO

+ Producer: *Granito Every Memory Matters*

MEMORIAL PARA LA CONCORDIA

+ Ixil Translator
+ Co-ordinator

PARTNERS THAT ACTIVATE

+ Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala
+ Center for Justice and Accountability
+ Center for Human Rights Legal Action
+ National Security Archive

**FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY
FOUNDATION OF GUATEMALA (FAFG)**

Gathers evidence to promote human rights through exhumations and DNA collection.

**CENTER FOR JUSTICE
AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Developed the legal strategy for the survivors' genocide case against General Ríos Montt, and use *Granito* extensively in their outreach and fundraising work.

**CENTER FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS LEGAL ACTION**

Spent 13 years constructing the case against General Ríos Montt, and used footage from *Granito* as key evidence.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE

Uses *Granito* to educate human rights practitioners and government officials in the US and Latin America on the use of documentation in the defence of human rights.

BOING BOING

One of the internet's most trafficked blogs, with 2.5 million unique visitors/month. Founding partner Xení Jardín covered the trial and embedded the *Dictator in the Dock* series on the site.

WITNESS

Embedded parts of *Granito* and the *Dictator in the Dock* series on their website.

OPEN SOCIETY JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Embedded *Dictator in the Dock* series on their website.

CULTURAL SURVIVAL

Partnered with Skylight to create and disseminate the *Granito* radio series.

RADIO NEBAJ & RADIO K'ICHE

Co-producers of the Maya language versions of *Granito*.

MEMORIAL PARA LA CONCORDIA

Guatemalan legacy management of GEMM website.

BUDGET**Film Budget:**

\$800,000

Funders:

- Chicken & Egg Pictures
- Latino Public Broadcasting
- Ford Foundation
- ITVS
- Sundance Institute Documentary Fund
- The Rubin Foundation
- The J.S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship

Campaign Budget:

\$400,000

Funders:

- Bertha Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- ITVS
- Latino Public Broadcasting
- Open Society Foundations

CONCLUSION

Granito's campaign is centred on the unique dynamic created by what Skylight call a "media ecosystem"; the deployment of targeted media focused on one country and its fight for justice and dignity. While it all started as a journalistic endeavour with one film over 32 years ago, over time it has developed into an ongoing programme of human rights work, not only setting the

record straight about a Maya genocide, and a General's culpability, but working within Guatemala to build capacity in the very community that had been wronged. The impact of the film is thus both dramatic and attributable - the conviction of a dictator - but also poetic and profound, providing agency through the medium of storytelling.

PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE

"Skylight really understand that social change is a long-term process, and assessing the impact of social change media is also a long term endeavour. The film created impact as a document of human rights violations. The campaign is a wonderful addition to that effort."

"Granito inspired people to care. They were frustrated and I think they understood a bit more about what Guatemala's context feels/looks like."

— Jennifer Ristau, Network in Solidarity with Guatemala Accompaniment Project.

WATCH THE FILM

Buy your copy from skylight.is/store
Stream on **iTunes and Vimeo on Demand**

CONTACT

paco@skylightpictures.com

PRESS



A small press sample which illustrates the quality of conversation around the issues raised in the film.

1 CNN
How a Documentary Changed Guatemala's History

2 THE NEW YORK TIMES
Old Footage Haunts General and a Director

3 WALL STREET JOURNAL
Chronicle of War, Evidence of Crime

4 NPR
Three Decades On, Ex-Guatemalan Leader Faces Genocide Charges

5 THE GUARDIAN
US Film Could Help Nail Guatemala's Former Dictator Efraín Ríos Montt

EDITION: INTERNATIONAL | U.S. | MÉXICO | ARABIC
 TV: CNN | CNN en Español

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May 31st, 2013 | 04:26 PM ET | By Samuel Burke, CNN

Most documentaries record and preserve history – only a few change the arc of

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Old Footage Haunts General and a Director



The scene in a Guatemalan Maya village in 1982; based in part on Ms. Yates's old footage, a Spanish court is prosecuting former junta members for genocide in attacks on Maya.

By LARRY ROHTER Published: September 9, 2011

AMERICAN filmgoers may not know what a "granito" is, but Pamela Yates's new documentary of that name comes with a subtitle whose meaning could not be clearer: "How to Nail a Dictator." The tyrant in question is Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt, who for 17 bloody months in the early 1980s led a military junta in Guatemala, and the "granitos" are the many human-rights advocates, metaphorical grains of sand who, by working together, have now managed to bring him up on genocide charges in a Spanish court.



Unusually, those charges rely, in part, on evidence from Ms. Yates's own work. But "Granito," which opens on Wednesday, is more than just a guide to bringing a despot to justice. It is also Ms. Yates's personal reflection on the purpose and craft of documentary filmmaking, on more than 50 years of tumultuous history

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Chronicle of War, Evidence of Crime

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By NICOLAS RAPOLD September 13, 2011

"Witnessing is the essence of being a documentary filmmaker," says the director Pamela Yates near the end of her new film, "Granito: How to Nail a Dictator." Rarely has the sentiment rung so true. The new documentary, which opens Wednesday at IFC Center and was co-directed by Ms. Yates and her collaborators Peter Kinoy and Paco de Onis, recounts recent efforts to secure justice for the victims of the Guatemalan genocide in the early 1980s.



Pamela Yates makes "When the Mountains Tremble" in Guatemala in 1982. Newton Thomas Sigge

Nearly 30 years ago, Ms. Yates, a longtime Brooklynite, went to Guatemala to make "When the Mountains Tremble," a document of the nation's violent and under-reported civil war. It chronicled the related crimes of Efraín Ríos Montt, the dictator whose roving death squads brutalized the country's unarmed indigenous Mayan population. It was ostensibly the end of the story for Ms. Yates—until lawyers prosecuting an international genocide case asked her to comb through the film and its decades-old outtakes for any evidence to be used against Gen. Montt, who now stands accused of war crimes.

The result, "Granito," retraces the threads of this historical synchronicity to become a story of the legal and emotional uses of evidence and of the documentary form. Shuttling between advocates and villagers in the verdant Guatemalan countryside, and legal players intently prepping their case, the film offers a methodical look at a piece of history as it is re-examined and put to account. But it is also a shared memoir of ideals and harsh realities as experienced by Ms. Yates and advocates for change in a country that, since a 1998 peace accord, has not fully reconciled a legacy of more than 200,000

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Three Decades On, Ex-Guatemalan Leader Faces Genocide Charges

by CARRIE KAHN
March 18, 2013 3:07 PM ET


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Guatemala's former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt arrives in court Jan. 31 in Guatemala City to stand trial on genocide charges. On Tuesday, the prosecution will present its case in the trial.

Moises Castillo/AP


In a Guatemalan courtroom Tuesday, prosecutors will present their case against a former military dictator who ruled during one of the bloodiest periods in the Central American nation's 36-year civil war.

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US film could help nail Guatemala's former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt

An 80s documentary could provide crucial evidence to support charges of genocide and crimes against humanity

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Posted by Anna-Claire Bevan
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Retired general and former de facto president Efraín Ríos Montt in court in Guatemala City. Photograph: Jose Miguel Lam/AFP/Getty Images


In January, a Guatemalan court ruled that there is now sufficient evidence for the former general and dictator Efraín Ríos Montt to face charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. The judge agreed with prosecutors who said the 85-year-old, as head of the government during the time of the atrocities in the 1980s, should answer for the armed forces' actions. He placed the former military leader under house arrest until the trial.

This month, a judge ruled that Ríos Montt will not be allowed an amnesty for the charges against him, granted by his successor more than 25 years ago. The former general's lawyers said they would appeal against the ruling.

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