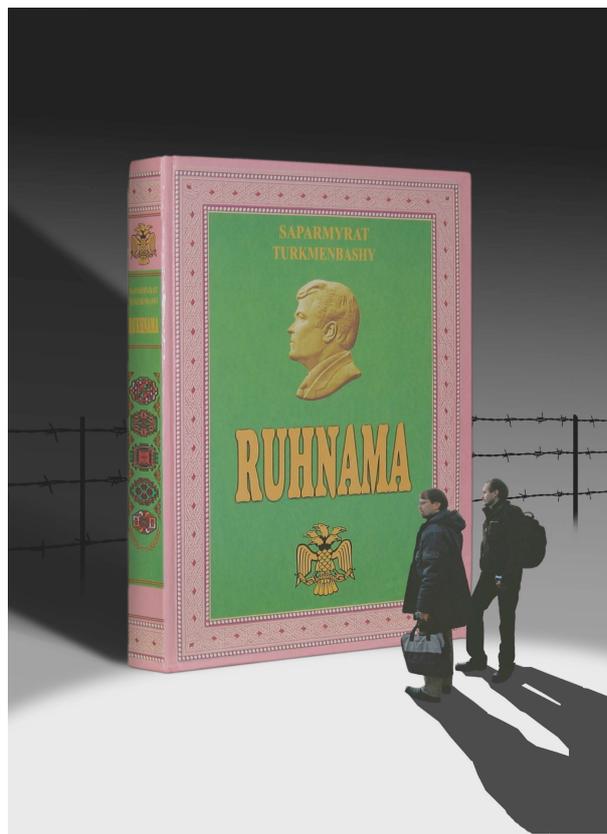


SHADOW OF THE HOLY BOOK

Press material

www.shadowoftheholybook.com

www.freedomforsale.org



Why are some of the world's biggest international companies translating the Ruhnama, an absurd government propaganda book from Turkmenistan, into their own languages?

SHADOW OF THE HOLY BOOK exposes the immorality of international companies doing business with the dictatorship of oil-and-gas-rich Turkmenistan, thus helping to hide its human rights and free speech abuses - all in the name of profit and corporate greed.

SHADOW OF THE HOLY BOOK – MEDIA INFORMATION

Shadow of The Holy Book, Arto Halonen's latest documentary film, received its world premiere at The International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) in November 2007. The film was selected for the festival's prestigious main competition, the Joris Ivens Competition.

Since its premiere the film has been selected for 75 other film festivals, including such significant events as Hot Docs in Toronto and the Seattle International Film Festival. In March 2008, one of the world's leading documentary film festivals, The 10th Thessaloniki Documentary Festival in Greece, honoured Arto Halonen as one of the most important directors of the new generation of documentary filmmakers. *Shadow of the Holy Book* has received the Grand Prix at the International Human Rights Film Festival in Paris, the Jury Special Prize at the Batumi International Art-House Film Festival in Georgia, the Audience Choice Award at the Taiwan International Documentary Festival, the Honorary Recognition at the International 1001 Documentary Film Festival in Turkey, and The Finnish State Quality Production Award 2008. The film was also nominated for the revered European Film Academy Documentary 2008 - Prix ARTE award.

Shadow of the Holy Book is one of the most widely distributed Finnish documentary films of all time. The film has been sold for theatrical and TV distribution in a number of territories. It will appear in over 20 countries including the United States (where it will receive both television and DVD release), France and Germany (in cinemas and on channel ZDF/ARTE). One of the film's main financiers is ITVS (The Independent Television Service) in the U.S. Other financiers include co-production companies and TV channels from Switzerland, Germany, Denmark and Finland. The film's international distributor is the renowned Canadian company Films Transit International Inc. Cinematic distribution commenced in Finland on 29.2.2008.

The film has also had an unusually strong practical impact. For example, as a direct result of the documentary's release, the Finnish Foreign Ministry has assembled a group of experts to prepare a report on the social liabilities of Finnish multinational companies operating in oppressive states. Due to the publicity generated by the film, *Shadow of the Holy Book* was also published as a book on 24.10.2008 by Like Publishing Ltd, and will become available in both Finnish and English.

TECHNICAL DATA

Format: 35mm (+ digibeta)

Duration: 90 min (+ 52 min. TV-version)

Shootings: Spring 2005 – Summer 2007

Film website: www.shadowofthehollybook.com

Human rights website related to the film: www.freedomforsale.org

Additional information / interview requests:

Art Films production AFP Ltd

Tel. +358-9-4159 3640 Fax. +358-9-4159 3690

www.artfilmsproduction.com / info@artfilms.inet.fi

International Distributor:

Films Transit International Inc.

252 Gouin Boulevard East Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3L 1 A8

Phone: (514) 8443358 Fax. (514) 8447298

www.filmstransit.com / info@filmstransit.com

Press pictures: www.shadowofthehollybook.com/press.html

ITVS: www.itvs.org

International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam: www.idfa.nl

HONORARY CEREMONY FOR ARTO HALONEN

http://www.tsouflidis.gr/?page_id=14&album=7&gallery=244

<http://www.artfilmsproduction.com/englishpages.html>

CREW AND PRODUCTION INFORMATION:

Director: Arto Halonen

Written by Arto Halonen and Kevin Frazier

Editor: Samu Heikkilä

Sound designer: Martti Turunen and Samu Heikkilä

Composer: Timo Peltola

People featured in the film:

Arto Halonen

Kevin Frazier

Markku Visapää

Kaius Niemi

Ali Karagöz

Avdy Kuliev

Murad Aliev

David Garcia

Farid Tuhbatullin

Ruslan Tuhbatullin

Boris Shikmuradov Jr.

Erika Dailey

Cinema Distribution in Finland: FS Film Oy

Tel. +358-207-300460

www.fs-film.fi

IN CO- PRODUCTION WITH

Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion/Switzerland

Kamolli Films/Denmark

PARTICIPATING TV CHANNELS

ITVS International (USA)

YLE TV2 Documentaries (Finland)

TV 2 Danmark (Denmark)

Schweizer Fernsehen (Switzerland)

Télévision Suisse Romande (TSR) (Switzerland)

Radiotelevisione Svizzera di lingua italiana (TSI) (Switzerland)

SRG SSR idée Suisse (Switzerland)

ZDF ARTE (Germany-France)

MDR (Germany)

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Finnish Film Foundation

Media Programme of the European Union

AVEK, The Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture in Finland

Nordisk Film & TV Fond

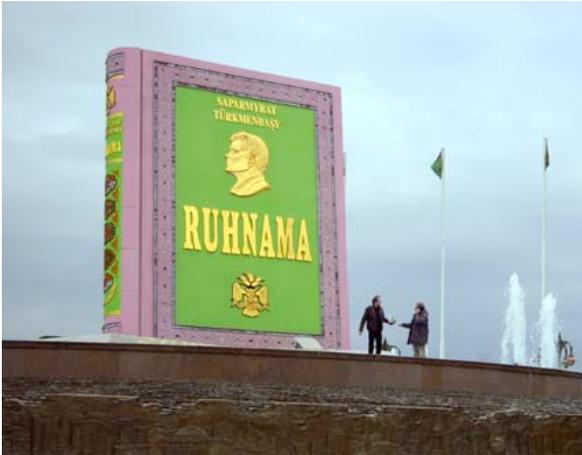
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Art Films Production AFP Oy

www.artfilmsproduction.com

SYNOPSIS



Why are some of the world's biggest international companies translating an absurd foreign book into their own language, trying to hide their aims and avoid discussion about the human rights and freedom of speech situation in Turkmenistan?

Shadow Of The Holy Book investigates the morality of international companies and the dictatorship of oil-and-gas-rich Turkmenistan. These companies help give the dictatorship the propaganda support that it needs to survive. Turkmenistan's dictator, Saparmurat Niyazov, has written a ludicrous book: the *Ruhnama*, the Book of the Soul, a key tool in the government's subjugation of human rights and free speech. Yet many international companies give their clandestine support to the *Ruhnama* and help suppress the country's voices of opposition and dissidence – in return for multimillion-dollar business deals.

The film follows lawyer/author Kevin Frazier and film director Arto Halonen as they travel from Europe to Turkmenistan, and all the way to the United States. The filmmakers are in search of companies operating in Turkmenistan, particularly the companies that have translated the *Ruhnama* books into their own languages, and thus supported Turkmenistan's dictatorship in the most absurd way possible.

The film also reflects the current situation in Turkmenistan, the impact of the *Ruhnama* book, and the ethics of the companies operating there. This is done through the dissidents and refugees, many of whom have been the targets of persecution, torture, and assassination attempts organised by the Turkmenistan government.

Turkmenistan has some of the biggest oil-and-gas reserves in the world, and this has increased the greed and ruthlessness of corporate activities in the region. Well-known companies like DaimlerChrysler, Siemens, Bouygues and Caterpillar praise and support the *Ruhnama* book, a book that has destroyed the education system and has served as the centerpiece of the dictatorship. The filmmakers look for corporate responsibility, and the companies duck and hide – until a couple of business executives appear who are ready to talk and take responsibility.

The film is the story of a dictatorship, and also of the transition from one leader to the next. After the sudden death of Saparmurat Niyazov, the creator of the *Ruhnama* book, power has transferred to Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov who has, on the surface, made reforms but in terms of violations against freedom of speech and human rights everything has remained the same. He has also praised the *Ruhnama*, and used it to increase his power. Therefore international corporations continue to use the same techniques to please the new leader as they did with Niyazov. The shadow of the holy book continues to stretch beyond Niyazov's grave.

TURKMENISTAN BACKGROUND



Turkmenistan is a former Soviet republic. Located on the shore of the Caspian Sea in Central Asia, the territory became independent in 1991 simultaneously with the other border republics. While the Baltic countries started to build democratic governments, Turkmenistan and other Central Asian former Soviet republics found themselves taken over by strong, individualist presidents. Turkmenistan closed its doors to the outside world. Saparmurat Niyazov ruled the country from October 27th, 1991, the day Turkmenistan proclaimed its independence, until his death on December 21st, 2006.

The personality cult of the Turkmen president Niyazov was singularly extreme. The new regime is led by one of Niyazov's former cronies, Gurbanguly Berdymuhammedov. Berdymuhammedov has already continued to award foreign companies contracts related to the Ruhnama, and has made clear that, at least for now, he will go on using the Ruhnama as an important part of the government's propaganda and power structure. According to the international Human Rights Watch, the rights of the Turkmen people are continuously violated in a uniquely reckless way.

The presidential election was held on February 11th, 2007. It was the first election in Turkmenistan to include more than one candidate. However, all six candidates represented the same party, and opposition groups were not allowed to raise their own nominees for the candidacy. Changes in the constitutional law allowed the acting president Berdymuhammedov to participate in the election, which he won with 90% of the vote.

Berdymuhammedov made several promises about citizens' rights during his election campaign. According to opposition representatives and outside observers, however, the actual changes made by Berdymuhammedov have remained cosmetic ;– done only in order to placate the media. Real changes on improving the human rights and freedom of speech situation have not been allowed. The "Reporters Without Borders" organization has for years rated Turkmenistan as one of the three worst countries in regard to freedom of speech, alongside North Korea and Eritrea. The low rating has not improved during the period of Berdymuhammedov's regime.

Turkmenistan is one of the major oil and gas-producing countries in the world. Berdymuhammedov recently strengthened his commercial relationship with Russia by closing a deal with Vladimir Putin on a second gas pipeline to Russia. Turkmen gas plays an important role in the activities of Russia's biggest corporation, Gazprom.

FACTS ABOUT TURKMENISTAN



Area: 488 100 km²

Population: 5.5 million, population density 14/km²

Unemployment rate: 60%

Natural resources: natural gas, oil, coal, sulphur, salt

Main export products: gas, crude oil, cotton fibre, grain, textiles

Main import products: machinery (75%), chemical industry products, medicine, clothing, food products

Main trading partners: Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Germany

Border countries: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Afghanistan

Capital: Ashgabat (population 827 500)

Other major cities: Turkmenabat (population 256 000), Dashhovuz (population 210 000)

Languages: Turkmen 72%, Russian 12%, Uzbek 9%, others 7%

Religions: Islam 89%, Eastern Orthodox 9%, unknown 2%. Islam and Eastern Orthodox are the only permitted religions

Ethnic groups: Turkmen 77%, Uzbek 9.2%, Russian 6.7%, Kazakh 2%, others 5.1% (1995)

Government type: republic, authoritarian presidential rule, little power outside executive branch

Country name: Republic of Turkmenistan, Türkmenistan Jumhuriyati

Chief of state: President Gurbanguly Berdymuhammedov, since 14.2.2007. Berdymuhammedov was supported by 89.23 % of the voters in the presidential election held on 11.2.2007. According to the new law appointed by the People's Council on 26.12.2006 the president is elected by popular vote for a five-year term.

Prime Minister: the president is also the prime minister

Parliament: two parliamentary bodies, People's Council (Halk Maslahaty) and National Assembly (Mejlis). In late 2003, a law was adopted making the Halk Maslahaty the supreme legislative organ. It consists of 2507 delegates and has the president as its supreme leader. The People's Council consists of parliamentary members, one elected representative from each region (etrap), members of the judicial body, government ministers, and representatives of various governmental organisations. The People's Council sets the government guidelines and reserves the right to amend the constitution. Mejlis is subject to the People's Council, and has 50 seats. Its members are elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms

Government: according to the 74th article in the Turkmenistan constitution the president names the government within a month of coming into power

Political parties: Democratic Party of Turkmenistan (DPT), which was led by the late Niyazov (note: formal opposition parties are outlawed)

Next election: presidential election 2012

Administrative divisions: 5 provinces (welayat, welayatlar), which have been divided into smaller regional units (etrap)

Independence: 27.10.1991 (from the Soviet Union). Independence Day 27.10.

Constitution: 18.5.1992

BACKGROUND OF THE PRODUCTION PROCESS

The film was produced over a three year period. The general subject was first suggested by Kaius Niemi's series of articles in the Helsingin Sanomat (Finland's largest newspaper) regarding the political situation in Central Asia. His writings were a catalyst for the research work of the filmmakers, through which the activities of different companies and the origins of the whole process were investigated and filmed.

The film touched on many sensitive areas (primarily the dictatorship in Turkmenistan and the morally suspect activities of various international companies) and therefore the whole production process was very secretive in order that the safety of those interviewed in the film and involved in its production would not be endangered. The film itself shows the process by which Frazier and Halonen approached the different companies and through various tip-offs and discoveries became more deeply involved in the subject.

It was possible to film in Turkmenistan on four different occasions (each time pretending to be tourists) and extra material was gathered for the film through various other methods. In the end there was an exceptionally large amount of material, 370 hours, from which the final film was edited. In the ten-month-long editing process, Samu Heikkilä worked as the main editor, with the assistance of a second editor, eight editing assistants and an international editing consultant.

FILMING IN TURKMENISTAN

Turkmenistan is one of the most dictatorial countries in the world. For years it has been rated as one of the world's worst three countries when it comes to limiting freedom of speech (alongside North Korea and Eritrea). Foreign journalists and film crews are not allowed into the country. Local people are not allowed to be in contact with tourists. Tourists entering the country are supervised, followed and manipulated through, to give only one example, the eavesdropping system created by Siemens for Turkmenistan. Filming sights and statues is, in principle, allowed for tourists, but filming government buildings or interviewing people at their work is strictly prohibited.

In the mid-1990s Saparmurat Niyazov shut down the country's film production in its entirety. The television propaganda that remained was then moved completely under the control of the state. Various foreign filmmakers have, over the years, tried to make films about Turkmenistan without success. In the last few years only one travel program, made for the BBC in a couple of days, has been completed, as well as a news report shot by a French film crew in four days. As a consequence of the French program, a political dissident who had assisted the film crew was arrested and died a month later in prison, presumably as a consequence of torture.

Over the course of three years (2005-2007) we attempted to send several film crews to Turkmenistan from different countries (containing 2-4 people per group). Several groups' visas were denied and the trips were cancelled. Finally we managed to arrange entry for four separate film crews. However, the totalitarian system and the country's oppressive environment had an anxiety-producing and paralysing effect on many of the members of the film crew, which made the film-making process still more challenging.



Many people working in Turkmenistan and individuals with diplomatic status also did filming for the project. They were able to provide unique material, which would have been unattainable by outsiders (for example, the Ruhnama concert, the building of the Ruhnama statue and the shots from the schools). One very significant source was the Finnish diplomat Markku Visapää, whose expertise, in addition to his filming work, was a great help to the project. Through people working within the system we also acquired original material from Turkmenistan television broadcasts, relating to the collaboration between Niyazov and international companies.

Bearing in mind the sinister methods employed by the dictatorship and the negative example set by the impact of the French news report, we left some particularly sensitive material unused as well as a number of interviews and personal introductions of our sources. We tried to balance the material to preserve the future and security of all involved in the project.

THE STYLE OF THE FILM

Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, is an absurd sight – an enormous Disneyland created by a dictator, with its golden temples and parks erected in the desert. An unfathomable and confusing comical aspect is thus linked to the repression of a people and the limiting of freedom of speech. Farid Tuhbatullin, exiled in Austria, has written satires on the absurdities of his country and with his son Ruslan has produced satirical animations where these elements of the regime are portrayed.

We wanted to bring this same style into the film. We aimed to reach this equation of comedy and fear through a particular narrative style.

Everything presented in the film has been verified by multiple sources. A few scenes have been produced as dramatic recreations: the various newsreading segments and a few of the Ruhnama reading circle scenes. Even in these cases, however, the texts read out are identical to the ones previously delivered on Turkmenistan television news. All texts were sourced from the official news agency of Turkmenistan, which has published them in the national media (which is why the English in these sections is sometimes rather odd, since we used the official government translations of the texts). Additionally, miniature satirical images of the Ruhnama book have been placed into a few of the newsreading scenes (such as the SIM card on a Siemens mobile phone).

OPEN LETTER TO BERDYMHAMMEDOV

The makers of the film, Arto Halonen and Kevin Frazier, wrote an open letter to the president of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdymammedov, on the release date of the film project. On the same day Berdymammedov made the first visit of his presidential era to the EU, with a possible gas deal with the EU on the agenda. The letter and the release of the film were widely reported in the international press, which follows Central Asian events via the activities of the international Watan organisation.

OPEN LETTER TO TURKMENISTAN'S PRESIDENT GURBANGULY BERDYMUHAMMEDOV

Dear President Gurbanguly Berdymuhammedov,

Today you are visiting Europe for the first time since your election as Turkmenistan's new president. You will be meeting European Union leaders, and undoubtedly the main point of discussion will be oil-and-gas cooperation. We hope the topics of discussion will also include Turkmenistan's human rights and freedom of speech issues.

Turkmenistan has secured its position as one of the world's crucial gas-and-oil producing countries. This offers you a special status in negotiations with different countries and with international companies. Along with this status comes great responsibility, both to your people and the world.

Your predecessor Saparmurat Niyazov, who died in December 2006, left you a difficult heritage: one of the world's worst dictatorships, with one of the worst records on human rights and free speech. You have talked about reforms and democratization, but substantial changes have been scarce. The real problems, in free speech and human rights issues, have not been addressed. Also, political refugees have not been allowed to return, and political prisoners have not been released from jail.

The Ruhnama, the book by Saparmurat Niyazov, has been the symbol and key work of a distorted regime that has spoiled Turkmenistan's education system and affirmed a monolithic personality cult. It has also been a channel for international companies to gain business relations with Turkmenistan. Companies that praise the Ruhnama and arrange for its translation have received preferential business treatment from the government. You have continued to support this book written by your predecessor, and have carried on its questionable legacy, even though the negative impact is clear to everyone.

To address the misconduct encouraged by the Ruhnama, we have made a full-length documentary film, *Shadow of the Holy Book*, which deals with Turkmenistan's problems and the morality of international companies working in your land. This documentary will premiere in the main competition at the important and prestigious International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam, November 22-December 2. Visitors and representatives of broadcast stations from all over the world will see the film, which will be covered by the international press gathered there. We have also launched a website—FreedomForSale.org—that deals with the same issues, to provide relevant information and perhaps awaken you to discussion.

The choices Turkmenistan makes in human rights issues have an impact not only for Turkmenistan, but for the development of human rights throughout Central Asia, and indeed throughout the world.

You have been in your position for only about a year. That is why it is understandable that you might not yet have had time to shift your policies towards a stronger commitment to democratic reforms. We encourage you to consider the benefits of more open policies, where the ghosts of the past are buried and where your land's political refugees and prisoners are guaranteed basic human rights. We hope that the Ruhnama book, and the distorted adoration and corrupt business activity surrounding it, will be abolished. This would act as a potent symbol for the whole Turkmenistan democratization process.

World history has seen leaders who faced and overcame the mistakes that their governments made in the past, and who thereby created exceptional breakthroughs for the personal dignity and freedom of their people. These breakthroughs are, for any leader, the truest sources of lasting glory.

Dear President Gurbanguly Berdymuhammedov, we hope that, when you are considered in the light of history, you will be known as one of those leaders.

Respectfully yours,

Arto Halonen
Film director and producer

Kevin Frazier
Scriptwriter, lawyer

DIRECTOR'S NOTE – SHADOW OF THE HOLY BOOK

It has long astonished me how international companies operate in countries where human rights are constantly trampled on. Dictatorships often ruthlessly abuse the propaganda benefits gained from their relationships with international companies—and pose no obstacle to the companies making huge profits in the dictators' countries.

Through the use of propaganda, those who live under these dictatorships are made to believe that the companies, and the countries from which the companies come, support the ruling government. It is through the apparent support given by the international companies that the dictators develop a shield against local opposition and dissidents, thus stopping the development of democratization.

I was filming in China and Tibet when I saw how China “opened its doors” and the flood of international companies started to rush in. Many companies explained their participation in China by saying that they are helping democratization through the free market. The end result, however, is enough to give anyone shivers. The companies have gained enormous profits, and at the same time China has significantly strengthened its position as one of the leading countries in the world. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China is now in charge of deciding the destiny of other nations. And yet the human rights and free speech situation has not changed. Indeed, as a stronger state China has grown even more aggressive in its political approach to countries like Tibet and Taiwan. China's political and economic power is maximized while the chance to influence China on human rights and free speech issues is minimized. When I heard about Turkmenistan and the actions of international companies there, I felt that a subject I had wanted to talk about for a long time was now within my reach. The ruthless self-interest of the companies, as well as the Turkmen state's propaganda ambitions, could be dramatized and explained through the translation process of the dictator's Ruhnama book. The absurd twists and turns related to the book provided a superb platform for the story, enabling it to reach from small vivid details to a vast international canvas.

As oil and gas enter the picture, the actions of the involved countries become even more unscrupulous. Also, the moral boundaries of private individuals become less clear as they find a chance to get rich through actions that test their limits. Our questionable actions increase in the grey area, and the purity that resides in each of us turns darker if we don't recognize, control, and question the consequences of our thoughts and deeds.

As an ambitious business executive I may have made the same mistakes as the companies did in Turkmenistan. The settled company policies also shift our morals and easily blind us to the actual far-reaching impact of our actions. The companies and countries grow into monsters in circumstances that we have created, and at the same time we turn into monsters ourselves. The responsibility remains with everyone: communities, companies, and individuals. Further, it is a filmmaker's responsibility to tell about these matters—perhaps as much for the filmmaker's own development as for any other reason.

PERSONS IN THE FILM

AVDY KULIEV

Niyazov's first Foreign Minister. The first minister to leave Niyazov's government. He lived in exile in Norway and died only a month after the interview that he gave for the film.

HOLMURAD SOJUNOV



An ex-parliamentary member of Turkmenistan, living in exile. Lives as a refugee in Sweden with his family. The secret police of Turkmenistan has attempted his assassination 3 times – by shooting, by attempting to throw him from a moving train, and by poisoned cognac.

MURAD ALIEV

Filmmaker, living in exile in Russia, where he has been successful in his work as a director. Niyazov became angry with Aliev over a film he had made and threatened his life. As a consequence Aliev fled the country and all film studios and cinemas in Turkmenistan were closed down within the following two years.

FARID & RUSLAN TUHBATULLIN



Farid, an exiled human rights activist of Turkmenistan, is currently living in Vienna and travels the world speaking for the democratisation of Turkmenistan. He spreads information on the human rights situation in Turkmenistan via his own website: www.chrono-tm.org . Farid's son Ruslan makes satirical animations about the situation in Turkmenistan.

BORIS SHIKMURADOV JR.

Boris Shikmuradov Jr's father was the former vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan. For 10 years he was Niyazov's closest colleague. Boris Shikmuradov Senior was found guilty in 2002 of the attempted assassination of Niyazov. Boris Shikmuradov Jr. lives as a political refugee in Moscow. He is desperately trying to find information on his father's situation, and is seeking the truth behind his apparent disappearance.

ERIKA DAILEY

Project Director of Turkmenistan
Open Society Institute

Worked as a researcher in the years 1992-1998 and was head of research for the Caucasus and Central Asian unit of the Human Rights Watch organisation. After this Dailey continued to work on Central Asian human rights issues by working as a consultant for Unicef, the International League for Human Rights organisation and as a writer for the Eurasianet.org internet publication. From 2000 onwards Dailey worked for the Open Society Institute's Central Asia project, funded by the Soros foundation. In November 2002 Dailey commenced her current position as the head of the Turkmenistan project of the Open Society Institute.

LIST OF CREATORS



ARTO HALONEN

Director, screenwriter

Arto Halonen's breakthrough as a documentary filmmaker was 'Ringside' (1992). In 2005 Halonen was awarded the Finland Prize, given in recognition for a remarkable artistic career. In 2008 the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival honoured him as one of the most important documentary makers of his generation. Arto Halonen is the founder of DocPoint – Helsinki Documentary Film Festival, and in the years 2001-2004 he was the festival director. The main focus of Halonen's career as a director is documentary film production, but he has also written and directed fiction and animation films. Amongst others, his 'The Happy Wedding Day' (90 min), a TV comedy, was the third most viewed film of 1993 on the YLE television channels. 'Home' (65 min), Halonen's latest fiction film, was a critical success. Halonen's Asia-themed series of documentary films includes 'The Stars' Caravan' (2000), set in Kyrgystan; 'Karmapa – Two Ways of Divinity' (1998), filmed in Tibet and winner of the Humanitarian Award of the European Union; the follow-up documentary 'A Voyage on the Roof of the World', and 'A Dreamer and the Dreamtribe' (1998), filmed in Malaysia. His four-part Cuba series began with 'The Tank Man' (2004) and 'Conquistadors of Cuba' (2005), concluding with the films 'The Legend' (2005) and 'Confrontations in Cuba' (2007). 'Pavlov's Dogs' had its world premiere at the acclaimed Amsterdam Documentary Film Festival's (IDFA) main competition series in 2006, and was also screened in MOMA's Documentary Fortnight series in New York.

KEVIN FRAZIER

Screenwriter

Kevin Frazier is an American lawyer and writer. He grew up in the United States, received his law degree from the University of Virginia, worked as a lawyer in Los Angeles for five years, and has lived in Helsinki since 1996.

SAMU HEIKKILÄ

Editor, second sound designer

Born in 1971, four-time Jussi award-winner (Finnish Oscars) Heikkilä has edited amongst others 'A Man's Work', 'Frozen City', 'Frozen Land', and the 'Fragments' TV series.

HANNU VITIKAINEN

Cinematographer

Hannu Vitikainen has shot various Finnish documentaries and fiction films, for example 'Lone Star Hotel' and 'Stones War'. He has also shot advertisements and music videos, such as the latest Apocalyptica video with the director Marko Mäkilaakso.

MARTTI TURUNEN

Sound designer

Martti Turunen has worked as a sound designer on various award-winning documentary films.

TIMO PELTOLA

Composer

Timo Peltola has worked as composer and editor on various documentary films, such as 'Tobacco Girls', 'Machine 17', 'Woodsmen' and 'Farewell'.

EREZ LAUFER

Editing consultant

Israeli Erez Laufer is an award-winning editor, editing consultant and director, and has worked as an editor for the legendary DA Pennebaker. He has been involved in editing the Oscar nominated 'The War Room', and in the films 'Woodstock Diary', 'Startup.com', and 'Only the Strong Survive'.

ARTO HALONEN

Selected filmography – director / screenwriter / producer

Shadow of the Holy Book (2007)

Documentary (90 min theatrical version + 52 min TV version)

Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

Lone Star Hotel (2007)

Documentary 73 min

Director Ari Matikainen, producer Arto Halonen

Confrontations in Cuba (2007)

Documentary 18 min

Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

Tobacco Girls (2006)

Documentary 57 min

Director Tarja Mattila, producer Arto Halonen

Pavlov's Dogs (2005)

Documentary (68 min theatrical version + 52 min TV-version)

Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

The Legend (2005)

Documentary 30 min

Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

Moonshine Village (2005)
Documentary 53 min
Directors Jarmo Jääskeläinen and Auli Koponen, producer Arto Halonen

Conquistadors of Cuba (2005)
Documentary (88 min theatrical version + 55 min TV-version)
Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

The Tank Man (2004)
Documentary 17 min
Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

The Stars' Caravan (2000)
Documentary 58 min
Director and screenwriter Arto Halonen, producer Kristiina Pervilä/Millennium Film Oy

A Dreamer and the Dreamtribe (1998)
Documentary 52 min
Director and screenwriter Arto Halonen, co-producers Arto Halonen and Jan Wellmann/Mandrake Production Oy

Karmapa – Two Ways of Divinity (1998)
Documentary 58 min
Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

Karmapa – A Voyage on the Roof of the World (1998)
Documentary 61 min
Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

Home (1995)
TV-drama 65 min
Director and arranger Arto Halonen, producer Kari Paukkunen/YLE TV2 Draama

Something in the Blood (1994)
Documentary 28 min
Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

The Happy Wedding Day (1993)
TV-drama 88 min
Director and screenwriter Arto Halonen, producer Kari Paukkunen/YLE TV2 Draama

Ringside (1992)
Documentary 57 min
Director, screenwriter and producer Arto Halonen

EXCERPTS FROM THE FIRST AND SECOND VOLUMES OF RUHNAMA

The following translations come from the official English translations of the *Ruhnama* volumes and make no attempt to correct the oddities of English usage in those translations.

“This book, written with the help the inspiration to my heart by the God who created this wonderful universe and who is able to do whatever He wills, is Turkmen *Ruhnama*.”

“*Ruhnama* should be a source of power that will keep hearts alert, of intellect, and suitable spirit, and the poetic soul of those real Turkmens who are concerned with their own spiritual world and also their spiritual and physical development.”

“If Allah wills it, the generations who drink deeply from the clean water of the spring of philosophy of the “*Ruhnama*” may grow into beautiful, moral people.”

The *Ruhnama* is a book opening the spring of the mind and meeting the thirst of the dry intellect. In our recent past the number of thirsty intellects has increased and the thirst for those springs in the clearings of the morals of Turkmens.”

“In “*Ruhnama*” the Turkmen people’s historical consciousness, matured over thousands of years, and their moral power and strength are drawn together. *Ruhnama* is a ship. This ship is chartered a bear the news of the past to the future over the vast sea of Turkmen history. *Ruhnama* is a courier. This courier transmits the past’s secret and necessary news for the future”.

“Nevertheless, “*Ruhnama*” must be the center of this universe. In this universe, all the current and the future cosmic matters should go on spinning, in *Ruhnama*’s attraction, centripetal force and orbits”.

“A brave man is not always visible like the sun. If his wife keep the house clean and tidy and is hospitable to visitors while he is absent because he is hunting or at war, she will undoubtedly enhance his position in society. Her own fame will also spread like her husband’s. A good man can be recognized by the actions of a good woman. If a woman is not competent in her own home, this problem influences her husband..”

“All thieves, traitors and criminals should be punished since no one should attempt to violate rules and prohibitions. Those who are suffering tyranny should be helped in order to reduce the numbers of tyrants and merciless people. As it is said, “The ruler who does not punish the criminal and thief strikes his own caravan and people with his own hands.” If a ruler does punish crime, he gains absolute legitimacy.”

“My Dear Turkmen nation!

The best of good manners is to love you fatherland.

The Value of fatherland can be measured with its holiness because it is one of the limited holy values endowed to mankind. Holy means the superior, unique and single one. Among the solely holy ones, other than fatherland, we can remember the uniqueness of God and sacredness of human life. When it is questioned that which one is superior of more sacred among these three types of holiness, say this: whichever of these holy ones is sacrificing itself for the other, the other is the superior. Life is sacrificed to fatherland and fatherland is sacrificed to God. Then, it is only the fatherland which is more sacred than life and God is superior to the fatherland because, God is needed after the father, fatherland is necessary after life.”

NEWS PUBLISHED BY THE STATE INFORMATION AGENCY AND LETTERS SENT TO THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN BY INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

Ruhnama has already been translated to 40 languages. The translation process usually includes the companies performing the task attempting to court the president's favour with letters, which are then published for propaganda purposes in all the Turkmenistan media by the official news agency (State Information Agency of Turkmenistan). Again, the texts here are taken from the official Turkmen news agency and no effort has been made to correct any mistakes in the English of the news agency texts.

17 November 2004: Turkmenistan-Caterpillar: A New Step Towards Development of Long-Term Mutually Advantageous Co-operation

Reception at the Presidential Palace.

President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov received some of the foreign businessmen, Chairman of Board of Directors of the Zeppelin Baumaschinen Company and Vice President of the Caterpillar Inc Company.

Taking an opportunity Chairman of Board of Directors of the Zeppelin Baumaschinen Company, official dealer of the Caterpillar Company in Turkmenistan, Ernst Susanek on behalf of those present congratulated President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov.

In this connection Ernst Susanek expressed his admiration for the first book of Ruhnama called the spiritual encyclopaedia of the Turkmen people. He also expressed his wish to read the sequel of the outstanding historical and philosophical work of Saparmurat Niyazov

Paolo Feline, Vice President of the Caterpillar Inc Company expressed his highest respect to the permanent leader of the Turkmen state, creator of all reforms carried out in the ancient land of Turkmenistan.

Second Book of Ruhnama Published in German /15.02.2005

Ruhnama translated into almost 30 foreign languages continues gaining the readership throughout the world.

On the eve of the national holiday, State Flag Day, a copy of the second book of Ruhnama, translated into German, was presented to Saparmurat Niyazov at the solemn ceremony of putting a new large object, a cement plant in Kelyata, into operation.

The famous German company Zeppelin Baumaschinen GmbH, a reliable and old partner of Turkmenistan, co-operating with our country in the sphere of delivery of the up-to-date equipment efficiently used at the large national objects, was an initiator of the translation and publication of the book of Ruhnama in German. The news about publication of the sequence of the great work in German became undoubtedly a significant event in the history of the relations between Turkmenistan and Germany and another step in the development of the fruitful all-round links between two friendly countries.

Presentation of the second book of Ruhnama published in French held in Ashgabat/10.09.06

The members of the Turkmen government and Mejlis of Turkmenistan, the heads of the state and public organisations, the representatives of the diplomatic missions accredited to Ashgabat, the

clergy and mass media, people of science and culture and the students took part in the solemn ceremony organized by the Ministry of Culture and Broadcasting activities of Turkmenistan and by a famous French **Bouygues** company, the initiator of the translation of the second book of Ruhnama for the **French** readers.

The members of the Chinese, Uzbek and Armenian delegations who came to Ashgabat to participate in Ruhnama and Spiritual Space International Conference to be held next week took part in the event. As the participants marked, the second book of Ruhnama is a new key to the world understanding of the moral guide lines of the Turkmen people; it widened a wonderful world of the ancient history and culture, folk wisdom and traditions of one of the most ancient nations of the world.

Speaking before the participants of the event the Vice-President of the Bouygues Company, Mr Aldo Carbonaro cordially congratulated the Turkmen people of the forthcoming 15th anniversary of independence. Moreover, the guest said that the publication of the second book of Ruhnama in French would undoubtedly be a good present for the people of the two countries connected with the ties of friendship and mutually beneficial fruitful co-operation and it would further promote the interaction between two cultures. According to his words, such a great interest of many people in **Ruhnama** was caused by its high artistic and scientific value because it is based on the new in principle analysis of the centuries –old historical way of the Turkmen people who made their great contribution to the development of the human civilisation and on deep comprehension of its spiritual and moral guide lines.

4 September 2004. To: His Excellency S.A. Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan

Your Excellency,

Accept our cordial congratulations on the forthcoming national holiday of Turkmenistan, Day of Independence.

From the ancient times the Turkmen people has been famous for their history and intellectual values. And your great work, Holy Ruhnama, that had a wide repercussion on the world community, was an inestimable contribution to world culture. After all, Ruhnama is a book about sense and dignity of human life irrespective of any ethnic territorial and time limits; this is a book about the world and the good.

I read the book in one go. Ruhnama helped me comprehend some values. I was imbued with original culture of the Turkmen people. I was able to enrich myself with new knowledge and to perceive the world and myself better. I realised that Holy Ruhnama is an invaluable contribution to the national and international spiritual culture. I think Ruhnama helped the mankind make another step to spiritual perfection.

I am a Croat by nationality, but I am a citizen of Italy. Let me translate Your Holy Ruhnama into Croatian and Italian in order to introduce this font of wisdom and intellectual values to the peoples of Croatia and Italy. I am sure that Holy Ruhnama will be a revelation for many people and help them find sense of life and find answers to many urgent questions.

I hope that the publication of the book in Croatia and Italy will give impetus to development of cultural and economic relationships between our countries.

Taking an opportunity I would like to wish you strong health, many long years and success in all your noble undertakings.

Yours faithfully,
Branko Janich
Technical Director
Culligan-Italiana

11.04.2004

Dear Saparmurat Atayevich,
Everything connected with your activity is of great importance for us: your life experience, your wise advice and precepts as well as your great work, Ruhnama, that has become a part of the lives of the people throughout the world. We are in earnest about translating the holy book, and after receiving your blessing we started fulfilling the important task.
I am pleased to inform you that the masterpiece of the contemporary period will be brought out in the ancient land of India some day soon, and the Indian readers will know the real history and rich spiritual world of the Turkmen people. Let the world and Holy Ruhnama be eternal!

With wishes of prosperity

Jagdish Yadavi
Director General
Deepak Travels
New Delhi, India

25 July 2005

To: His Excellency Saparmurat NIYAZOV, President of Turkmenistan

Dear Saparmurat Ataevich,
Your philosophical treaty Ruhnama by right takes a worthy place among the most considerable works in the modern history of world community. Due to its translation into dozens of foreign languages the sacred book of the Turkmen has become property of millions of readers in different parts of the world. The readers feel gratitude for the immeasurable respect and love you showed to your people creating and devoting to them the great book Ruhnama.

The great work translated into more than 30 languages causes really great interest among the readers in Kazakhstan as well.

We believe that translation of Ruhnama into Kazakh will promote further strengthening and closing-in of the fraternal national cultures having the same historical roots. Ruhnama is a book about the spiritual experience and moral lessons of many generations that we should learn and perceive the wisdom of the universe. Many people wonder whether the second volume of Ruhnama will be translated into Kazakh.

The KazTransGaz Joint-Stock Company actively works with the gas workers of Turkmenistan and advocates the further development and strengthening of the Turkmen-Kazakh co-operation. It would be a great honour for us to receive your consent to publish Ruhnama in Kazakh.

In connection with the foregoing the directorate of the KazTransGaz Joint-Stock Company asks your high benevolence and consent to publish the second volume of Ruhnama in Kazakh. We are sure that translation of the second volume of Ruhnama into Kazakh will play a positive role in strengthening mutual understanding and expansion of cultural ties between our fraternal peoples.

Respectfully yours,

Kayrat BORANBAEV,
Director for External Economic Links
KazTransGaz Joint-Stock Company

“FREEDOM FOR SALE” WEBSITE – MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ACTIONS OF THE CORPORATE WORLD

The Freedom For Sale website highlights grievances in human rights and free speech issues in different countries. At the same time the website describes, questions and monitors international corporations that seem to ignore and therefore indirectly support violations of human rights and free speech. Our intention is to encourage companies to reconsider their operations in these countries and to face the future more openly and constructively.

The website will regularly introduce a new target country, and its human rights issues and freedom of speech abuses will be broadly explored through articles, news, and diverse use of video and other photographic material. We will also examine and expose the companies that operate in these specific target countries, and that are at least indirectly linked with the countries' human rights abuses.

The site is updated weekly, and alongside the target countries and target companies we concentrate on current human rights abuses around the world. In addition, the site serves as an interactive channel where the public and company representatives can take part in conversations concerning human rights, freedom of speech and corporate activities.

The first target country has been Turkmenistan - one of the world's most significant oil and gas producers, and also the home of one of the world's worst dictatorships. The target includes the companies operating there and the way they hinder the democratisation process through their support of the state leadership.

The first target company has been Shell, which operates in 130 countries, many of which are responsible for human rights violations. Shell conducted long negotiations in Turkmenistan regarding the construction project of a gas pipeline, but mysteriously pulled out of the scheme without giving a reason. The second target company was Siemens, which according to multiple sources has supplied and installed the eavesdropping system used by the Turkmenistan government, by means of which political dissidents and opposition members have been arrested and put into prison. Through this system foreign embassies and international organisations have also been spied on. The next target company will be the construction company Bouygues, which has been a major player in Turkmenistan and is responsible for the construction of the Olkiluoto nuclear power plant in Finland.

The FreedomForSale.org website also functions as an introductory channel for films focusing on human rights issues. The first film introduced is 'Shadow of the Holy Book', which focuses on human rights in Turkmenistan and the moral values of businesses.

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Press images: www.shadowoftheholysbook.com/press.html

Shadow of the Holy Book: www.shadowoftheholysbook.com