



21ST CENTURY SHOW # 59

SHOW OPEN, GRAPHIC AND MUSIC (24.47'')

Coming up on 21st Century...

[GABON TEASE]

Pygmies at the crossroads ... (*ODAMBO: "If you lose touch with your practices, with your customs, that's a total uprooting, and it's truly disastrous."*) **In the rainforests of Gabon, one man's journey to help his people shape their own destiny.** (19.13'')

[INDIA TEASE]

And in India, banished and forgotten, widows facing a life of judgement (Sound Dr. Giri: "*There was one widow who was lying dead on the streets ...and the people are walking passed it.*") **The struggle to bring hope to millions** (17.65)

ANCHOR INTRO #1 (31.42'')

Hello, and welcome to 21st Century. I'm Daljit Dhaliwal.

[GABON INTRO]

For most of us, owning a passport or identity card is something we take for granted. But many people around the world have never been recognized as citizens of their own country. We travel to the rain-forest of Gabon in West Africa to meet such a group – the

pygmies. And with us is one man determined to help them on their route to recognition.

SCRIPT – SEGMENT # 1 (13'14")

Gabon: People in the Forest

VIDEO

AUDIO

NATSOT

NARRATION:

ODAMBO ON A PLANE AND VIEWS
FROM WINDOW

This is a man with a mission. His name is Leonard Odambo (Lee-on-AR Odambo), and he's from Gabon. (10.09)

ON CAM: ODAMBO

ODAMBO: (In French)

"I'm a bit like the squirrel – that animal which lives high up in the branches and who comes to tell those who live down below what he's seen." (13.27)

ODAMBO WALKS DOWN THE
PLANE

NARRATION:

MUSIC.

Those who live down below" are his people – the pygmies. (04.12)

PYGMIES DANCING AT NIGHT

TRADITIONAL SINGING AND
DANCING

Although widely recognized as the first inhabitants of Central Africa, the pygmies have a history of being marginalized, even considered by some to be lesser human-beings. An early team of western explorers described them as "likable little people

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE OF PYGMIES

when friendly”, live a “primitive life”, and who can “climb trees like monkeys.” (29.95)

ARCHIVE PHOTOS OF OTA BENGGA

At the turn of the 20th Century, the pygmies were so misunderstood that several were put on display at the St Louis World Fair, in the United States, and later, at a New York zoo, one pygmy was exhibited in a cage with the monkeys. (16.67)

PYGMIES MEN GOING IN THE FOREST

Today in Gabon, the once-nomadic pygmies live mostly in villages deep in the dense rainforest, their rich environment providing both shelter and sustenance. (12.94)

CROSSBOW SHOT

PYGMIES IN THE RAINFOREST AND VILLAGES

And their renowned knowledge of the forest plants and their medicinal uses is of tremendous value. (06.55)

But, largely forgotten, they are not even recognized as citizens, and have little say in determining their own future. (11)

ODAMBO ON CAM

ODAMBO: (In French)

“What they really want is development.

That’s why we have to fight this battle on all fronts!” (07.63)

NARRATION:

PYGMIE VILLAGE IN RAIN

The battle is to help the pygmies on the path out of obscurity and into position to take their rightful place in modern society. But it's a journey not without its pitfalls - as Odambo, having made that same journey himself, knows only too well. (20.31)

ODAMBA IN LUBREVILLE

ODAMBA CROSSING THE STREET

ODAMBO: (In French)

"It's not easy – it's really complicated.

ODAMBO IN CAR

That's all I'm saying ...” (05.65)

(SOUND UP –MUSIC)

NARRATION:

MAP OF GABON

Now he's travelling eight hundred kilometers from the capital to join his team near the Congo border. Their work is of enormous significance. They're carrying out a census of one group of pygmies – the Bakoya (Ba –KOY- a) – the first census ever completed. Walking from village to remote village, the members of the team cover vast distances, recording the details of all pygmy inhabitants. (31.69)

ODAMBO AND TEAM IN EASTERN
GABON

WALKING AND TACKING CENSUS
DETAILS

ODAMBO: (In French)

"The most important thing is that everyone is included in the census" (04.97)

ODAMBO VO – WORKING WITH
OTHER PYGMIES

NARRATION:

ODAMBO MEETING THE VILLAGE

And once registered, those pygmies who, until now, haven't even been eligible for

PEOPLE

identity cards will be granted citizenship and will have a say in shaping their own destinies. (12.24)

BLANCHARD ON CAM

BLANCHARD MILOMA: (In French)

“I am really sad because the pain my people are suffering is the same pain that I am also going through.” (07.42)

BLANCHARD TAKING DETAILS FOR CENSUS

NARRATION:

Census-taker, Blanchard Miloma (Blanchard Miloma), himself a Bakoya pygmy like Odambo, understands exactly what it is to be considered second-class. (09.22)

BLANCHARD VO OVER CENSUS DOCUMENTS

BLANCHARD MILOMA: (In French)

“Without an identity card, you’re always in trouble. Even though you’re Gabonese you’re treated like a foreigner.” (08.16)

RAINFOREST AND PYGMIES IN THEIR VILLAGES

NARRATION:

Having never been counted before, nobody knows exactly how many pygmies there are in the country – estimates range anywhere from 10,000 to 20,000. The census, the first step in registering their numbers, is funded and overseen by the United Nations Democracy Fund, UNDEF, which works to make sure people everywhere have a voice and can take part in elections and the affairs of their country. (29.91)

VILLAGES SINGING AND DANCING
WELCOME TO ODAMBO

At the village of Ibea, the welcome for
Odambo and the team is a warm one.
(05.31)

(NAT SND – MUSIC/DANCE)

VILLAGERS B-ROLL

ODAMBO ON CAM

ODAMBO: (In French)

“We count the young people to see what
types of opportunities are needed, and we
count the women because we need to take
into account the future generation.

We record the kids and children to see who
needs to go to school.” (15.62)

CHILDREN IN THE VILLAGE AND
SCHOOL ROOMS

NARRATION:

Odambo believes that only about a half of
all pygmy children go to school. Most
parents can’t afford to send them. As a
result, some 90% of pygmies in Gabon,
according to World Bank estimates, are
illiterate. (16.63)

Access to healthcare is also a challenge.
(03.04)

EMILE ON CAM

EMILE KOMBOATOA: (In French)

“They can’t go to hospital because they’ll
be asked for money. And they’ll be asked
for some kind of identification. And they
don’t have it.” (08.20)

EMILE TALKING TO THE PYGMIES	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Emile Komboatoa, another census-taker and a retired school-teacher, has spent years working in the pygmy community. Without that identity card, he says, they also can't vote. (12.66)</p>
EMILE ON CAM	<p><u>EMILE KOMBOATOA:</u> (In French)</p> <p>"We need to start there – at least to get them identity cards. (05.28)</p> <p>The problem is that they have been left to their own devices - they were abandoned" (06.19)</p>
WOMAN COLLECTING WOOD AND ROOT VEGETABLES	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Without this access to basic services and jobs, and with food and their natural resources becoming ever more scarce, most live a precarious existence. And this poverty, says Odambo, fuels their exclusion. (14.09)</p>
ODAMBO VO OVER WOMAN B-ROLL	<p><u>ODAMBO:</u> (In French)</p> <p>"How can you feel like a citizen if you don't have a house; you can't be a citizen if you can't send your children to school; you can't be a citizen if you can't even get cured of a simple flu!" (09.49)</p>
ODAMBO ON CAM	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p>

ODAMBO VISITS A SCHOOL

Odambo is determined to fight so that his people have the same opportunities in life that he did. As one of the few pygmies in Gabon with a university degree, his access to education was crucial in enabling him to be their voice, until they are able to speak for themselves. (20.66)

ODAMBO TALKING TO MEN AND WOMEN

But his path to get here has been an extraordinary one. (04.23)

ODAMBO IN IMBONG, WITH DENIS

Orphaned as a baby, he grew up here in the village of Imbong, with Denis, his cousin who he calls his big brother. (07.59)

DENIS ON CAM

DENIS: (In French)

"We grew up together ... slept together, we ate altogether, we did almost everything together ..." (05.93)

CU. DENIS AND A BOY

NARRATION:

Denis' father, the village chief, though himself illiterate recognized the importance of education for the boys. Despite being poor, he made sure they both attended the local primary school. (12.46)

CHILDREN PLAYING

DENIS: (In French)

DENIS ON CAM

"When we came back from school every evening, he'd show us the alphabet – a, b, c, d up to z. But he himself didn't even

	know how to read or write! He memorized it!!” (15.91)
ODAMBO INSIDE A CLASSROOM	<p><u>ODAMBO:</u> (In French)</p> <p>“It fills me with nostalgia to think that I passed through here ... (05.07)</p> <p>I always tried to work hard in the lessons in spite of the fact that my trousers were completely in pieces. (05.84)</p>
ODAMBO ON CAM	<p>It was the teachers who used to bring me underwear.” (02.71)</p>
CHILDREN OUTSIDE SCHOOL	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>And when he was 11, one of these teachers changed the entire course of his life. Robert Zotoumbat unofficially adopted Odambo as his son, putting him through school and then university. This footage, shot in 2006, shows them together in the family house in Libreville. (23.37)</p>
ROBERT ON CAM	
YOUNG ODAMBO AND ROBERT	
ODAMBO VO OVER THEIR B-ROLL	<p><u>ODAMBO:</u> (In French)</p> <p>“He looked after me in his home like I was his own child.” (03.56)</p>
ODAMBO’S FAMILY HOME	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Not far away, Odambo now lives with his wife and 3 small sons. (05.04)</p>
	<i>(NAT SOT BREAKFAST SCENE AT</i>

ODAMBO'S HOUSE)

NARRATION:

ODAMBO IN CAR

After dropping his son at school, Odambo heads to the office of MINAPYGA, an organization he formed and now heads to fight for pygmy rights and which, with UNDEF support, is responsible for completing the census. Today he's updating his colleagues on the progress of this work. (20.24)

ODAMBO AT MEETING

(NAT SOT ODAMBO PRESENTS MEETING)

ODAMBO PRESIDES THE MEETING

ERIC DODO BOUNGUENDZA: (in French)
"It's really important that all groups of the population are integrated into the democratic process" (07.22)

ERIC ON CAM

NARRATION:

ERIC TALKING ON CAMERA

Eric Dodo Bounguendza, Director of the Gabonese Office of Human Rights, agrees on the importance of equal rights for all citizens. And the government of Gabon, he says, is also playing its part. (12.97)

PEOPLE IN LIBREVILLE

ERIC DODO BOUNGUENDZA: (In French)
"The Gabonese government is currently putting into place a number of mechanisms to help the indigenous people adapt to the

ERIC VO OVER B-ROLL

westernization of life.” (11.67)

NARRATION:

But in attaining those rights they should never forget who they really are says Odambo. (05.58)

ODAMBO: (In French)

“If you lose touch with your practices, with your customs, that’s a total uprooting, and it’s truly disastrous, awful” (08.63)

NARRATION:

One of the practices he misses most is speaking his native language, Bakoya. As Odambo’s wife is not a pygmy, at home they speak in French. His own sons now barely speak his language. (16.15)

ODAMBO: (In French)

“I don’t want them to be completely uprooted like me but what can I do? It’s really painful for me, really painful ...”(09.77)

NARRATION:

To maintain their roots in the forest, Odambo has had a hut built in Imbong, near the site where he was born. This is where he plans to bring his children for holidays so they too will form a bond with

CLOSE UP OF MAN

ODAMBO VO OVER HAND
WORKING AT LAPTOP

ODAMBO AT HOME

ODAMBO WALKING WITH HIS
SONS, THEN BY HIMSELF

ODAMBO IN HIS HOMEVILLAGE

	the forest as he and his ancestors have always had. (16.78)
ODAMBO IN THE RAINFOREST	<u>ODAMBO:</u> (In French) “Nio, Nio, Nio”— that’s the sound of the monkeys. I miss the song of the birds; I miss the cries of the monkeys. I feel really far away. But when I come here like this, I like to go a bit into the forest and when the birds sing, I feel alive.” (20.27)
ODAMBO VO OVER RAINFOREST B-ROLL	
MEN DRUMMING AND SINGING	<u>NARRATION:</u> The pygmies are now on the verge of being granted citizenship. The choice will then be theirs as to how much they want to participate in all the opportunities life in mainstream Gabonese society presents without losing their thousands of years of profound knowledge of the forest.
PYGMIES DANCING	Odambo, having already taken those steps, has some words of advice. (30.35)
NIGHT SHOTS OF DANCING ODAMBO VO OVER B-ROLL	<u>ODAMBO:</u> (In French) “Development is not easy. It’s possible, it’s possible. But one should give it some reflection ... (07.44)
DANCING SHOTS A NIGHT	I try to draw attention to the dangers of developing too fast. We are a people of the forest; we should always keep one foot in the forest. (09.93)

The forest is our life.” (02.63)

FADE OUT ON DANCING

ANCHOR INTRO #2 (26.73”)

[INDIA INTRO]

They number nearly 250 million worldwide ... almost half of them live in extreme poverty. They are widows, many discriminated against and relegated to a life of isolation. In India, we get a glimpse of what life is like for these forgotten women. Here's our story

SCRIPT – SEGMENT # 2 (10’ 06”)

India: Forgotten Women

VIDEO

GANGES RIVER
NIGHT ARTI CELEBRATION
BOATS WITH LITTLE LITES
WOMEN PRAYING IN WATER
FUNERAL PYRES UP RIVER
PUJAS IN SESSION

AUDIO

(Nat Sot: CHANT/MUSIC/ RIVER IMAGES)

NARRATION:

On the banks of the Ganges River...many believe it's the point where life...and death...meet. A place where prayer... fills the soul... with hope...(19.22)

Women across India flock here every year with their families...offering prayer to the Gods in the name of good health and

PRAYING FOR HUSBANDS	prosperity for their husbands. Most shudder at the thought of being widowed. (17.55)
KAMLA AT COMPOUND OR WALKING IN STREETS	It's a fate many here, like 73-year-old Kamla, consider a death sentence. (04.71)
VISITING NEPHEW	Widowed 40 years ago, Kamla was left alone to raise five children – two sons and three daughters. (08.04)
KAMLA ON-CAMERA	<p><u>KAMLA</u>: (In Hindi)</p> <p>"When my husband died we had no money. He died in an accident when he was coming home from work. I was only 32 years old." (11.69)</p>
WALKING NEAR NEPHEWS PLACE	<p><u>NARRATION</u>:</p> <p>Kamla managed to find some work sewing and eventually when her boys grew up, she looked to them for help. But in an attitude toward widows that's all too common in India, her sons and their wives considered her a burden, and turned their backs on her, making life a living hell. (19.91)</p>
KAMLA ON-CAMERA	<p><u>KAMLA</u>: (In Hindi)</p> <p>"I asked my younger son, 'When I get old and I cannot work, then you won't give me food?' And he said, 'I will not give you food.' How much pain I felt." (18.01)</p>

GIRI ON-CAMERA

DR. GIRI: (In English)

“First of all a woman is looked down upon and if you’re a widow it’s double discrimination.” (04.49)

Dr. GIRI AND THE STATUE OF
GANDHI
WOMEN IN STREET

NARRATION:

Dr. Mohini Giri is a human rights activist -- fighting for these invisible, forgotten women for the past four decades. (09.65)

WIDOWS IN STREET

Dr. Giri says that there’s widespread discrimination against the more than 40 million widows living in India. (07.50)

GIRI ON-CAMERA

GIRI: (In English)

VULTURES 7 MYSTERIOUS
SHOTS OF DOGS ETC.

“There was one widow who was lying dead on the streets. And the vultures were coming and eating her flesh, dogs were coming and the people were walking by and nobody was picking up the dead body. And that really shook me absolutely.” (17.01)

LOW ANGLE SHOT- FEET THE
STREET SHOTS

NARRATION:

Deemed as having no value without a husband, many widows are forced to live in isolation and misery – a life that many themselves believe is their destiny. (13.39)

BUNDELKHAND/FUNERAL
PYRE

The situation is so tragic that some widows even commit Sati – throwing themselves on their husbands’ funeral pyre in an act of self-

	immolation. (10.36)
HANDICAP WALKING AWAY	So entrenched is the attitude towards widows that it's believed that if a widow commits Sati – she will not only end her own suffering – but that her village will flourish and she will become a Goddess. (14.54)
WS. TEMPLE	A temple was even built in the name of one such woman. Priest Ajay Tiwari guards the temple around the clock. (09.83)
INTRO SHOT TO TIWARI	
TIWARI ON-CAMERA	<u>TIWARI</u> : (In Hindi) “People keep coming from far and near to visit the temple every day to get a glimpse.” (07.04)
RURAL VILLAGE SHOTS OF ROAD WHERE FAMILY LIVE/ CU MYSTERIOUS FEET/SLOW MOTION SUN DOWN	<u>NARRATION</u> : Sati, while illegal in India, and not supported by all Hindus, is still practiced in central and northern India - regions known for their deep spirituality. (11.71)
STREET/CAR/WIDOWS TEMPLES OF VRINDAVAN PILGRIMS ETC/	Many of India's vulnerable widows come to the area to settle here in the Holy City of Vrindavan – a city of temples, pilgrims and hermits. (14.23)
WIDOWS INSIDE A TEMPLE	There are more than sixteen thousand widows living in Vrindavan, so many that it's now commonly known as the “City of

	Widows". (12.88)
WIDOWS ON STREETS IN TATTERED CLOTHING	They come here waiting for death ... hoping they'll go straight to heaven. Most live in solitude. (07.46)
MORE WIDOWS IN STREETS	Following the customs relegated for widows they wear white...cut their hair short...and eat only once a day. (07.53)
OLD WOMAN AND A COW	Many barely survive on scraps of food and a few rupees daily they may get daily from singing in temples...(07.37)
MARKET/TEMPLE GATES	<i>(NATSOT STREET SOUNDS)</i>
BEGGING AT TEMPLE GATES	And those who can no longer sing, resort to begging in the streets...living one day at a time. (06.92)
	<i>(NATSOT BEGGING – SHAKING CAN)</i>
DR. GIRI IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK TRAFFIC LIGHTS ETC.	But a glimmer of hope interrupts the darkness, as Dr. Giri's determination to help them takes on a life of its own. (09.03)
MORE SHOTS IN NEW YORK	Haunted by the vision of the widow she saw laying dead on the street, she began travelling the world...advocating for widows...and raising funds to fulfil her mission. (11.13)

MA DHAM ASHRAM

And in 2008, Dr. Giri realized a goal - she built an ashram – or shelter for widows. (10.07)

ASHRAM

Also located in Vrindavan, it's now home to some five hundred women. (05.37)

DR. GIRI VO OVER WIDOWS IN ASHRAM

GIRI; (In English)

“What am I trying to achieve? To give dignity in death to these women; to give them a healthier life. (04.99)

ACTIVITY OF ASHRAM

Women are now totally empowered.” (02.81)

KAMLA B-ROLL IN ASHRAM

NARRATION:

And that includes Kamla (01.32)

Banished by her sons and too embarrassed to move in with her daughters who struggle to feed their own families – Kamla spent years moving from relative to relative. She finally knocked on the doors of Dr. Giri's ashram for help in 2010. (15.27)

KAMLA ON-CAMERA

KAMLA: (In Hindi)

“It looks nice. We get to eat and drink here. Every body lives together here.” (06.72)

NARRATION:

WIDOWS PICKING
VEGETABLES

For so many, it's a world away from the streets they once lived on. Its a clean place to live...a chance to gather together...to work in harmony. (13.87)

WIDOWS AT MEDICAL CENTRE

And to keep the widows here as healthy as possible, a medical team is also available on the compound for routine medical checks and therapy. (08.91)

ASHRAM B-ROLL

(NATSOT OF THERAPY ROOM)

But while the ashram may be a haven for some, Dr Giri knows that in order to bring about real change for India's widows, there's one thing she still must do
(10.10)

DR. GIRI VO OVER A WIDOW

GIRI: (In English)

"...change the mindset of men that they should not look down upon these widows."
(04.23)

SHOTS OF RIVER STREETS,
PEOPLE AT THE BANKS

NARRATION:

Devaluing women is an attitude that's been deeply entrenched for centuries in India, she says...(05.91)

DR. GIRI VO OVER
WATERPOOL B-ROLL

GIRI: (In English)

"From childhood a boy is taught that he is superior. How can he change? The mother – who says 'you are a king my little boy' –

MAN BATHING AT THE POOL	but the girl is not given the same treatment in the house.” (10.77)
MAN CARRYING FIREWOOD	<u>NARRATION:</u> Dr. Giri says, attitudes are shifting somewhat as modernity overtakes traditional ideology. But there’s still a long way to go she argues. (11.42)
B-ROLL RIVER STREET	
GIRI ON-CAMERA	<u>GIRI:</u> (In English) “How are we going to change it overnight? Especially when there is no literacy, when there is no education, when suspicion and superstition persist everywhere. I have to change all those men in India in order to see that women get justice.” (16.19)
KAMLA WITH ANOTHER WIDOW INTERS THE TEMPLE	<u>NARRATION:</u> And while that may be something that comes too late for Kamla, her life now she says is finally filled with reflection and kindness. She has found an inner peace... (12.86)
AT TEMPLE ETC. PRAYING	
	<i>(VISUAL TRANSITION BACK TO THE ASHRAM)</i>
SEWING CLASS	Life at the ashram with the other widows she says, has brought her purpose ...allowing her to once again feel useful (08.97)

KAMLA WORKING AT MA DHAM WITH OTHER WOMEN	She's helping to train younger women to acquire skills to prevent them from going hungry like she did for so many years. (08.56)
KAMLA TAKE CARE OF ANOTHER WIDOW	And she's determined to take care of other elderly widows who no longer have strength in their frail bodies. (07.00)
KAMLA OPENS UP A WINDOW CURTAIN	For Kamla and so many others here, they can now face life ...and death ...with the dignity that was once denied them. (09.23)
KAMLA VO OVER HER B-ROLL DARK SCENE	<u>KAMLA</u> : (In Hindi) "When I get sick and my hands and feet stop working, I will live and die here. (08.60)

CLOSE

And that's all for this edition of 21st century. Sharing the world's stories, I'm Daljit Dhaliwal. Until next time, goodbye.

CREDITS: (19.14")

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