



Contact:

Karen Reynolds, 212-989-7425, kreynolds@pov.org

Cathy Fisher, 212-989-7425, cfisher@pov.org

Online Pressroom: www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom

Justice Stalks Chilean Dictator Augusto Pinochet from Unlikely Source: A Judge Who Once Supported Him, in P.O.V.'s "The Judge and the General," Tuesday, Aug. 19 on PBS

Veteran Journalists Elizabeth Farnsworth and Patricio Lanfranco Examine the Unusual Case of Judge Juan Guzmán, Who Struck a Blow For Human Rights in Chile — and the World

"An evocative suspense thriller about the 17-year reign of terror in Chile in the 70's and 80's and the man who, more than any single other person, brought it to an end." - Phil Bronstein, Editor-at-Large, San Francisco Chronicle

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

National Air

Date: **Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008** at 10 p.m. on PBS. (Check local listings.) The **P.O.V.** series (a cinema term for "point of view"), now in its 21st year on PBS, is broadcast June through October, with primetime specials in the fall and winter.

Summary: When in 1998 Chilean judge Juan Guzmán was assigned the first criminal cases against the country's ex-dictator, General Augusto Pinochet, no one expected much. Guzmán had supported Pinochet's 1973 coup — waged as an anti-Communist crusade — that left the democratically elected president, Salvador Allende, and thousands of others dead or "disappeared." The filmmakers trace the judge's descent into what he calls "the abyss," where he uncovers the past — including his own role in the tragedy. **The Judge and the General** reveals one of the 20th century's most notorious episodes and tells a cautionary tale about violating human rights in the name of "higher ideals." *A co-production of Independent Television Service (ITVS) in association with Latino Public Broadcasting.*

The filmmakers were granted unique access to Judge Guzmán's criminal investigations, which take viewers deeply into two cases:

- Manuel Donoso, a young sociology professor, was an activist and member of the same political party as Salvador Allende. Soldiers arrested Donoso at home shortly after the 1973 coup. The military claimed he died in an automobile accident en route to prison. As Judge Guzmán investigates, viewers learn whether the official story is true.
- Cecilia (Chechi) Castro, whose mother, Edita, faced a ghastly "Sophie's Choice." She led Pinochet's secret police to her daughter's hiding place in order to save a granddaughter's life. Guzmán's investigations reveal the dark truth behind these cases in a tale of redemption.

Filmmakers'

Statement: "We [Elizabeth Farnsworth and Patricio Lanfranco] had first worked together in Chile in early 2000, producing reports for *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. Later, when we separately met Judge Juan Guzmán, we each realized his was the story we had been waiting to tell. He had been appointed by judicial lottery to investigate the first criminal charges filed against Pinochet in Chile in 1998.

“Because Guzmán was politically conservative and had welcomed the 1973 Pinochet coup, human rights lawyers and victims’ families feared he would never seriously investigate the alleged crimes of the general he had supported. Those skeptics had often risked their own lives gathering evidence during the Pinochet years in hope of eventually bringing torturers and murderers to trial. By the end of **The Judge and the General**, viewers will know whether the skeptics were right or wrong.

“We believe his journey — as he uncovers long-buried truths from the past and confronts his own role in the tragedy — holds meaning for us all at a time when terror, torture, rendition and secret prisons, all part of the Chilean experience, make news in the United States most every day.”

Bios: Elizabeth Farnsworth, Producer/Director

Elizabeth Farnsworth was chief correspondent and principal substitute anchor on PBS’s *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* from 1995-2000. She then became a senior correspondent, reporting mostly from overseas. She now freelances for *The NewsHour* and makes documentaries. In the past four years, she has reported from Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, Chile, Haiti and Vietnam. Her 2001 four-part *NewsHour* series on the AIDS crisis in Botswana and Malawi (produced by Joanne Elgart) received the 2001 Silver World Medal from the New York Festivals and a national Emmy nomination. Her documentary “Thanh’s War” (co-directed with John Knoop), which aired on PBS in 1991, garnered a CINE Golden Eagle, among other awards, and “The Gospel and Guatemala” (co-produced with Stephen Talbot, PBS, 1983) received a San Francisco International Film Festival Golden Gate Award.

Farnsworth’s writings have appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *World Policy Journal*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Nation*, *Mother Jones* and other publications. She has lived in Peru and Chile and has a master’s degree in Latin American History from Stanford University. Farnsworth was assistant producer of “Que Hacer?,” a feature film set during the Chilean election campaign of 1970, and has followed Chile closely ever since. She lives in San Francisco.

Patricio Lanfranco, Producer/Director

Patricio Lanfranco, a Chilean citizen living in Santiago, has been a researcher and producer for two decades. As senior producer of the news department of Chilean National TV (TVN), he produced the live television coverage of the 1995 trial of Manuel Contreras, former chief of Pinochet’s secret police, for the 1976 Washington, D.C. murder of Orlando Letelier, former Chilean Ambassador to the United States. Because of the broadcast, Chileans were able for the first time to watch attorneys present evidence in an official setting of human rights crimes committed by the secret police. Later Lanfranco created his own independent company. He has produced reports for the BBC and assisted in the production of many stories for *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. He has also coordinated and produced for the Australian Broadcasting Company’s flagship *Foreign Correspondent* program. In 2003, he won the Chilean National Television Council Award

In the News: Lucia Pinochet Hiriart, the eldest daughter of Chile’s former leader Augusto Pinochet is to run for a seat in municipal elections in October. She will stand as councilor in the Santiago district of Vitacura, where she lives. The municipal posts have limited power, but correspondents say the polls will test the political climate for the 2009 presidential election. (Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7530369.stm>)

Juan Bustos, president of Chile’s lower house and a lifelong crusader against the human rights abuses of the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship, died in a Santiago hospital on August 7, after a fight with liver cancer. Bustos, a top law professor and member of the Socialist Party, was elected president of the lower house, or Chamber of Deputies, this year. He was 72. (Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN07465960>)

P.O.V. Web: The **Judge and the General** companion website www.pbs.org/pov/judgeandthegeneral) offers a streaming video trailer of the film, an interview with filmmakers Elizabeth Farnsworth and Patricio Lanfranco; a list of related websites, organizations and books; a downloadable discussion guide and classroom activity; and these special features:

Background on Chile and Pinochet: Find out more about the history of Augusto Pinochet's rule in Chile.

Essays: Why are some people spurred to act in the face of government-sponsored injustice, while others stand by and do nothing? We explore the concept of "The Good German" with some experts and activists, including: Naomi Roht-Arriaza (author, *The Pinochet Effect: Transnational Justice in the Age of Human Rights*), Carol Tavris (co-author, *Mistakes Were Made*), John Dinges (author, *The Condor Years: How Pinochet and his Allies Brought Terrorism to Three Continents*) and Mark Ensalaco, (author, *Chile Under Pinochet*).

Outreach: P.O.V. is working with public television stations and national and community-based groups across the country to foster community dialogue around the issues presented in **The Judge and the General**. For a list of upcoming screening and discussion events, go to: http://www.amdoc.org/outreach_news.php

P.O.V. also works with nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow to develop a facilitation guide with discussion questions and background information to help event organizers carry out discussions around the film's content. Cari Ladd has created the lesson plan. P.O.V. and Susan Conlon and Martha Perry of the Princeton Public Library have created a multimedia resource list of related fiction and nonfiction books and videos that further explore the issues. The materials are available free of charge at: www.amdoc.org/outreach.

Festivals: World Premiere, San Francisco International Film Festival, May 2008
Independents Night, Lincoln Center, New York, August 2008
Santiago International Film Festival (SANFIC), Santiago, Chile, Aug. 23 & 24, 2008
Festival of Liberties, Brussels, Belgium, Oct. 16 – 26, 2008

Length: 86:46

Credits: Co-directors/Co-producers: Elizabeth Farnsworth, Patricio Lanfranco
Executive Producer: Richard Pearce
Cinematographers: Michael Anderson, Vicente Franco, Esteban Medel, Jim Van Vranken
Editor: Blair Gershkow
Original Music: Barbara Cohen

The Judge and the General is a co-production of West Wind Productions and Independent Television Service (ITVS) in association with Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB), with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

Pressroom: Visit P.O.V.'s pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

P.O.V.: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and celebrating its 21st season on PBS in 2008, the award-winning P.O.V. series is the longest-running showcase on television to feature the work of America's best contemporary-issue independent filmmakers. Airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m., June through October, with primetime specials during the year, P.O.V. has brought more than 250 award-winning documentaries to millions nationwide, and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *P.O.V.'s Borders*. Since 1988, P.O.V. has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. More information about P.O.V is available at www.pbs.org/pov.

Major funding for P.O.V. is provided by PBS, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Educational Foundation of America, The Fledgling Fund, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, The September 11th Fund, and public television viewers. Funding for P.O.V.'s *Diverse Voices Project* is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. P.O.V. is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including KCET Los Angeles, WGBH Boston and Thirteen/WNET New York.

DVD REQUESTS: Please note that a broadcast version of this film is available upon request, as the film may be edited to comply with new FCC regulations.



Media Sponsor: *Hear It Now*