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Lee Shapiro

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For the screenwriter and animator born in 1970, see [Lee Shapiro \(writer\)](#).

Lee Shapiro (1949–1987) was an American **documentary filmmaker**. His one feature-length film, *Nicaragua Was Our Home*, was released in 1986. It was filmed in [Nicaragua](#) among the [Miskito Indians](#) who were then fighting against Nicaraguan government forces. It features interviews with Miskito Indian people and some non-Miskito clergy who lived among them concerning actions of the government against them, including bombing of villages, shootings, and forced removal of people from their homes.^[1] The film was shown on some [PBS stations](#)^{[2][3]} and at the 1986 [Sundance Film Festival](#).^[4]

In 1987, Shapiro and fellow filmmaker Jim Lindelof were killed in [Afghanistan](#) during the [Soviet–Afghan War](#).^{[5][6]} The **armed group** they were traveling with reported that they had been ambushed by military forces of the [Soviet Union](#) or the [Afghan government](#). However, the details have been questioned, partly because of the poor reputation of the group's leader, [Gulbuddin Hekmatyar](#).^{[7][8]}

Shapiro was a member of the [Unification Church](#) and a graduate of its [Unification Theological Seminary](#), as well as the [London Film School](#) and the [University of Colorado](#). He also attended medical school at the [University of Oklahoma](#). His filmmaking was supported by [CAUSA International](#), a church-related anticommunist organization.^[9]

In 2006 the documentary film *Shadow of Afghanistan*, by Suzanne Bauman and Jim Burroughs, was released. It incorporated footage originally shot by Shapiro.^{[10][11][12][13]}

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2. ↑ [How to Read the Reagan Administration: The Miskito Case](#)^[ⓘ]
3. ↑ [Public TV Tilts Toward Conservatives](#)^[ⓘ], *Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting*
4. ↑ [Sundance Film Festival: 1986](#)^[ⓘ], *IMDB*
5. ↑ [Afghanistan: eight years of Soviet occupation](#)^[ⓘ], *United States Department of State*, March 1988, The campaign to target foreign journalists had more tragic results. Two American filmmakers, Lee Shapiro and Jim Lindelof, were apparently killed by a regime attack while traveling with the mujahidin. In 1986, Lindelof had been named paramedic of the year for his efforts training Afghan medical workers. In response to protests, Kabul stated it could not "guarantee the security of foreign subjects" who enter illegally, whose presence it views as "evidence" of "external interference."
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7. ↑ Two US journalists reported killed in Afghanistan; details murky↗, *Christian Science Monitor*, October 28, 1987 "Two American journalists are believed dead in northwest Afghanistan, diplomatic and resistance forces say here. Filmmaker Lee Shapiro and his soundman, Jim Lindalos, both of New York, were killed Oct. 11, reportedly in a Soviet or Afghan government ambush, according to United States consular officials. However, the resistance group that accompanied the film team has a poor reputation among most informed observers, and doubts have arisen over whether the two Americans did indeed die in an Afghan government or Soviet attack."
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13. ↑ Shadow of Afghanistan - Suzanne Bauman and Jim Burroughs↗ Archived 2009-01-06 at the Wayback Machine, Alliance of Women Film Journalists, "It took 20 years to complete this documentary chronicling developments in Afghanistan, from Eisenhower's 1959 friendly visit, through Soviet invasion and expulsion, the ensuing civil war, to post-9/11 American bombing and occupation. The film uses extraordinary footage, some shot by slain journalist Lee Shapiro, to present the lives of a beleaguered people. (Seen at Tribeca Film Festival)"

V·T·E

Unification movement

[show]

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- Lee Shapiro↗ on IMDb
- *Nicaragua Was Our Home*↗ on IMDb
- *Shadow of Afghanistan*↗ on IMDb

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