

WORLD ISSUES

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.

VERSIONS

English, Spanish: 64 x 30 min.

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Full Report

Full Report spotlights key and current social developments that affect us all. It is a series with its finger on the pulse. The investigative reports expose problems, provide explanations and offer visions of life in the future.

11 Made in ...? – The Spread of Product Piracy SD

Product piracy – from fake designer products to illegal copies of music and films, product piracy has become a global industry with earnings in the billions of dollars. And it is expanding constantly. The lion's share of the faked goods is produced in China, often imported to Europe via Spanish harbors. The second largest market is Africa, since few people there can afford the original items.

14 A Matter of Business – Mafiosi Speak SD

Experts estimate that the business volumes of organized crime syndicates the Mafia (Sicily), Camorra (Naples and Campania) and Ndrangheta (Calabria) constitute around a sixth of Italy's entire GDP. The syndicates became a global player a long time ago. In Germany, the Camorra and Ndrangheta work together when the benefits are mutual. While the Camorra's strong point is business acumen, the Ndrangheta rules the roost when it comes to securing territory. So the two groups collaborate when appropriate.

17 Testing Side-Effects – How Safe Is Your Medication? SD

Everything goes according to plan at the animal testing stage, but when the substance is given to a human being for the first time, disaster strikes, and the lives of six men hang in the balance. The key question here is: do experiments on monkeys go far enough to safeguard the next stage of tests on a person? And the dilemma is that drugs do have to be tested on humans. The risk of dangerous complications remains high.

23 Human Perfection – Obsessed with Beauty, Doped to Perform SD

Many young women are tempted to undergo cosmetic surgery after giving birth, but sometimes these operations can go wrong. Many advances might have been made in the field of plastic surgery, but what are the risks? And what ethical issues are raised in the quest for the perfect body?

26 Miraculous Recovery – Testing the Limits of Medicine SD

Can a doctor really cure patients simply by laying a hand on them? Does hypnosis work? Can a sick man dream he is cured and wake up healthy? Some people really do make apparently miraculous recoveries after orthodox medicine has failed to help them. How much is health a question of mind over matter?

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40 Rain of Destruction – The Legacy of the Vietnam War [VoD](#) [SD](#)

US forces sprayed more than 70 million liters of the defoliant Agent Orange on Vietnam during the war there. The consequences of such prolonged use of a highly toxic dioxin have been catastrophic to this day. Since the end of the war in 1975, half a million children in Vietnam have been born with severe deformities. While a number of organizations continue to provide care for those affected, a victims' initiative is locked in a legal battle for compensation from the chemical concerns that produced Agent Orange.

41 Fewer Children and Longer Lives – Japan's Ageing Society [VoD](#) [SD](#)

Japan's elderly population is growing. They play sports, seek out new activities and work in the voluntary sector. At the same time, people are having fewer children. Japanese society is ageing – a demographic development with dramatic consequences that serves as an example to many industrialized nations.

42 The Caviar Mafia – The Black Gold Business [VoD](#) [SD](#)

Russian caviar is viewed as a luxury product the world over, and its price continues to climb to astronomic heights. Sturgeon stocks are being massively depleted, and strict limits are being imposed on exports of the black gold. More and more caviar is being illegally traded as a result. And caviar smuggling is a ruthless business.

43 AIDS in South Africa – The Battle Goes On [VoD](#) [SD](#)

Some six million people are HIV-positive in South Africa. Most of those infected are young and poor. Condoms are the only effective protection, but many South Africans simply refuse to use them. Now even Catholic organizations are voicing their support for condoms and running information campaigns in a bid to try and change this attitude.

44 The Untouchables – India's Outcastes Put Up Resistance [SD](#)

Every trip to fetch water is akin to running the gauntlet, and entering temples is strictly forbidden. The Dalits – or 'untouchables' as they are known in the Hindu caste system – are subjected to massive discrimination, particularly in rural regions of India. Fatima Burnad, herself a Dalit, has decided something must be done, and is determined to fight this abuse.

46 Somalia – A Lawless Nation [VoD](#) [SD](#)

Somalia has been on the UNO's Failed States Index since its first edition in 2005. The provisional government controls less than 10 percent of the country – with the remainder in the hands of local clans, warlords and radical armed groups. Over half a million Somalians have lost their lives in a civil war that has lasted some two decades. A gripping documentary about one of the world's most dangerous countries.

47 Not Only Prison – The Juvenile Court Judge from Granada [SD](#)

The Spanish juvenile-court judge Emilio Calatayud is well known for his extraordinary rulings. Instead of punishing young offenders in conventional manner, he aims to open up possibilities for a more positive future. In some cases Calatayud tracks the progress of the youngsters over many years, until they are reintegrated into society. As a result of his innovative approach, 70 percent of the youngsters do not re-offend.

48 Foreigners behind Bars – A Man Tries to Prove Their Innocence [SD](#)

German national Alfred Lehnert is in the Philippines fighting for the freedom of foreigners wrongly detained in prisons there. Using his extensive network of contacts, he has so far been able to secure the release of 60 people from all over the world.

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50 Tough Times in British Cities – Youth Gangs in Liverpool [VoD](#) [SD](#)

They are generally aged between 14 and 18, heavily armed, deal in drugs and make up to 500 euros a day. Violent youth gangs have become part of everyday life in Liverpool, as in many cities around the world. Police and social workers no longer set foot in certain rundown neighborhoods. Many adults there are afraid of their own children.

52 When the Hunter Becomes the Hunted – Alone Against the Italian Mafia [HD](#)

The modern-day Italian mafia operates on a global level. With an estimated annual turnover of more than 130 billion euros, it is one of Italy's biggest business enterprises. But the mafia is sucking Italian society dry like a parasite, and the power of the organization is growing despite some success in bringing its bosses to justice. Insiders rarely speak out against the mafia, which still upholds a vow of silence.

54 A Question of Fairness – The Ethics of the Global Economy [SD](#)

The last financial and economic crisis has shown that an ethical framework is required for global markets. Only if it is in place will the global economic situation improve. The fair-trade movement has drawn attention to the importance of moral choices. This documentary considers the ethical and economic dimensions of the fair trade in foodstuffs and textiles.

55 Brazil's Wild West – The Conflict Over Land [SD](#)

The forces of globalization are much in evidence in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso. Large companies are buying up huge swathes of rainforest and chopping down the trees in order to cultivate soy beans. The ecological and social consequences are disastrous, and include the merciless displacement of landless and indigenous people.

57 Living Life to the Full – Independent Women in Africa [SD](#)

This documentary film accompanies four women in Uganda, Senegal, Lesotho and Mozambique, who all have one thing in common: the will, the creativity and the tenacity to live independent lives. The radio presenter, car mechanic, nurse and artist are not content to fulfill the classical roles assigned to them by society.

59 Showdown on the Rio Grande – The Drugs War in Mexico [SD](#)

One of the most important drugs trafficking routes to the United States leads through the Mexican border town of Ciudad Juárez. It is one of the world's most dangerous places. Several thousand people have been murdered there in recent years. Police and army units are locked in a bitter and shadowy war with competing drugs cartels. In Ciudad Juárez no one really knows where the battles lines are drawn.

60 Pink Anger – Indian Women Fight for Their Rights [HD](#)

Sampat Pal has set up a very special kind of vigilante group in India, the Gulabi Gang. It has hundreds of members, all of them women who dress in pink saris and fight for the rights of defenseless women and children. They step in to prevent child marriages, beat up unrepentant violent husbands, and force police to arrest rapists and murderers. They are conducting a passionate battle against injustice and repression in India.

62 Sport in North Korea – A Window on a Closed Society [SD](#)

Life for a North Korean sportsman or sportswoman is dominated by a tough training regime. Their payback is preferential treatment in the world's last Stalinist-style dictatorship. North Korean athletes are expected to enhance the glory of the nation, and that means they are afforded certain privileges by the state – while many of their compatriots suffer poverty and starvation.

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63 Last Orders? – India's Mobile Kitchens [SD](#)

The food vendors that are omnipresent on the streets of India are feeling the effects of globalization, and not only because they're having to compete with a growing number of international fast-food chains. The government would like to see them banished from cities altogether as part of an ongoing process of urban modernization. We tell the story of street seller Ganesh Rao, who is fighting to save his livelihood in Hyderabad.

64 Internet Attacks – Battles Rage in Cyberspace [SD](#)

The past few years have seen an explosive increase in the number of computer viruses and Trojan horses. Cases of Internet espionage are no longer a rarity, with spying often carried out by well-organized crime syndicates. Now security companies and military organizations are also conquering cyberspace: the wheels of an Internet arms race have been set in motion.

65 The Executioner's Silent Victims – The Children of Chinese Convicts [SD](#)

Little Tian Tian's father was executed, her mother then committed suicide. Today Tian Tian lives with a hundred other children in a home in Beijing. This institution, for the children of Chinese convicts, was founded by Zhang Nainai, or Grandmother Zhang, as everyone calls her. Against all odds, she does what she can to prepare her charges for life after the orphanage.

66 An Unknown Fate – The Lost Children of Guatemala [HD](#)

Guatemala has one of the highest murder rates on the American continent, with violence claiming the lives of more than 10 people a day on average. And children often simply disappear. No one knows what happens to them. Tired of waiting for the police and the judicial system to act, affected mothers have taken matters into their own hands.

67 Nightmare in Dreamland – Modern Slavery in Dubai [SD](#)

Each year thousands of young women, most of them from Africa, go to the Gulf states to work in private homes. But what starts out as a journey full of hope often turns into a nightmare. Many of the women receive no wages and are subjected to inhumane treatment. 23-year-old Trungo from Ethiopia wanted to try her luck, but then she disappeared without trace.

68 Abducted and Sold – China's Stolen Children [VoD](#) [HD](#)

More than 20,000 children are abducted by traffickers every year: some are forced to work on the land, others end up as prostitutes or destitutes in the cities. Parents desperately search for their children, and the children for their parents. They receive support from the Chinese aid organization 'Baby Come Home', a network of 30,000 volunteers who make every effort to help those affected – although the success rate is low.

69 Sounds of Reconciliation – Music Unites Serbs and Kosovars [SD](#)

Serbs and Kosovar Albanians have been locked in conflict for generations – tensions that spilled over into full-scale war in the late 1990s. An Austrian cellist has succeeded in bringing together gifted Serbian and Albanian musicians. They rehearse in Graz and perform in Serbia and Kosovo. They hope their music will help to heal historic wounds.

70 Against All Odds – The Emancipation of Indigenous Farmers [SD](#)

Guatemala's indigenous population is slowly freeing itself from the shackles of repression. Those in power are facing increasing opposition as communities take steps to emancipate themselves. For example, over the last 22 years 20,000 indigenous farmers have established a successful coffee-growing cooperative, under the guidance of Swiss national Ueli Gurtner. Through courage and tenacity they have succeeded in asserting themselves against the monopoly and the criminal machinations of the ruling elite.

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71 [Dicing with Death – The Louisiana Prison Rodeo](#) SD

Most of the inmates at the Angola penitentiary in the US state of Louisiana have nothing to lose: Almost 90 percent are serving life sentences without parole. In their desperation, many choose to take part in what is known as the prison rodeo, where they pit their wits against bulls and wild horses in a public spectacle that often results in injury. Some do it in a bid for short-lived fame, others for financial reward.

73 [Toheba's Secret – The Betrayal of Afghanistan's Daughters](#) VoD HD

Thirteen-year-old Toheba is a 'Bacha Posh' – that is the term for young girls in Afghanistan who are dressed as boys by their parents. It is a custom that dates back centuries and is based on the belief that families without sons are social outcasts and economically disadvantaged. In a society still dominated by men, this masquerade is tolerated by most, but criticized by increasing numbers of people.

74 [Freedom or Security – Changes Caused by the War on Terror](#) HD

Many countries introduced tough new anti-terror laws in the wake of 9/11, in order to be able to identify and apprehend terrorists before they carry out attacks. But much of this legislation curtails fundamental rights. What is more, suspicion often falls on the wrong people.

75 [Dangerous Work – Mirja's Colombian Mission](#) HD

Mirja Peters works for the NGO 'Peace Brigades International' in Colombia. The PBI endeavors to protect human-rights activists as they go about their work all over the world. The strategy is called protective accompaniment. PBI employees are bodyguards without guns or bullet-proof vests – their only weapon is their presence. And thanks to their work, there has been a marked improvement in the security situation of people engaged in the human-rights sector.

76 [Life in the Shadows – Enforced Prostitution in Germany](#) HD

Nigerian women forced into prostitution in Germany live unbearable lives. They are at the mercy of unscrupulous pimps from Nigeria, who use voodoo and violence to oppress and exploit them. Conditions in the brothels are dreadful. Few of the women have so far found the courage to speak out, partly because they receive virtually no support in Germany.

77 [A Sect and its Spies – Scientology's Secret Service](#) HD

Scientology is generally viewed as a controversial sect. But few people may be aware of the fact that Scientology maintains its very own secret service, the 'Office of Special Affairs'. Its job is to identify dissenters and critics. People who have left Scientology say it is involved in criminal activities that extend far into the spheres of business and politics.

78 [Fear Has a Thousand Eyes – Cities and the Terrorism Threat](#) VoD HD

Big cities are the neuralgic centers of our globalized society. In a bid to protect these centers, municipal authorities are increasingly reliant on continuous surveillance systems and an ever more sophisticated security architecture. Critics are warning against the creation of digital parallel cities where everything is monitored, and a militarization of urban space that will fundamentally change the way people view their lives.

79 [Sexual Violence – The Fear that Haunts Women in India](#) VoD HD

Since the fatal gang rape in 2012 of a student in Delhi triggered mass protests, attention has been focused on the many sexual attacks that occur in India. But this has so far done little to change the plight of victims. They are derided as prostitutes, subjected to police interrogation and humiliated by judges in the courtrooms.

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- 80 Unnecessary Roughness – The Soccer Capital Buenos Aires** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
Many people in Buenos Aires are crazy about football. But the sport is overshadowed by corruption and violence. Fanatical, violent fans in well-organized associations known as barras bravas wield great power in the clubs, often with the support of politicians, officials and players.
- 81 Living Among the Dead – The Cemetery Communities of Cebu** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
Hundreds of poor families live in cemeteries in Cebu City in the Philippines. By day they make gravestones and candles, sell flowers and allocate burial sites; by night they sleep in the mausoleums. A new residential block aims to give some of these cemetery-dwellers new hope and a way to escape poverty.
- 82 No Right to Life – India's Lost Daughters** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
There are significantly fewer women than men living in India. This is not because fewer girls are born than boys, but because girls are viewed as inferior, superfluous and expensive and many pay a terrible price: Especially in rural areas, baby girls are in grave danger of being murdered.
- 83 Now or Never – Helping Rio's Child Soldiers** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
Marcos and Mateus are 15 years old. They work, heavily armed, for a drugs gang in a favela in Rio de Janeiro. But they want out. Dutch psychiatrist Nanko van Buuren, founder of the children's project Soldiers Never Again, negotiates with cartel bosses and arranges schooling and apprenticeships for the children he rescues.
- 84 Fragile Fortress – The North Korea of Kim Jong-un** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
Foreign journalists are rarely allowed to visit North Korea; and when they are, they are subjected to stringent controls. But these very efforts to restrict the media unwittingly reveal that the dictatorial regime is now struggling to isolate the country from the rest of the world.
- 85 The Occupied Palazzo – Refugees Stranded in Rome** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
The Palazzo Selam, or Palace of Peace, is a former university building in downtown Rome. It has been occupied by refugees since 2006. It is home to hundreds of people, isolated from the outside world, who have taken their survival into their own hands and are trying to realize their dreams and goals in Europe.
- 86 A Ray of Light – The Lebanon Project** [VoD](#) [M](#) [HD](#)
Every summer, young people from Europe volunteer at a summer camp in the Lebanese mountains, where they help disabled people enjoy an unforgettable if brief holiday. The disabled people involved in the Lebanon Project spend the rest of the year in institutions, often in poor conditions.
- 87 Heroes of the Night – The Soul Collectors of Bangkok** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
They're known as the 'soul collectors' of Bangkok – volunteer helpers who take care of the victims of traffic accidents. Thailand's capital does not have an organized emergency service. Night after night, the selfless engagement of the 'soul collectors' ensures that those left injured on the streets of Bangkok get the medical treatment they need. Sometimes, all they can do is tend to the dead.

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88 Europe's Deadly Border – Rescuing Migrants in the Mediterranean [VoD](#) [HD](#)

Thousands of refugees attempt the Mediterranean crossing to Europe every year, and many die in the process. Following an especially grave accident with heavy loss of life, Italy set up the 'Mare Nostrum' rescue program, in a bid to save the lives of as many people as possible.

89 Living Beneath the Streets – The Sewer People of Bucharest [HD](#)

There are believed to be at least 6,000 homeless people in the Romanian capital. Many of them seek shelter underground, in a network of tunnels and sewers. Their lives are dominated by poverty, drugs and fear. But somehow, they have carved out an existence for themselves beneath the streets of Bucharest, where they're known as the 'sewer people'.

90 In the Cartel's Sights – The Drug War in West Africa [VoD](#) [HD](#)

West Africa has become a transit region for drugs in recent years. Criminal gangs transport drugs, primarily cocaine, from South America, through this part of the world to the main markets in Europe. Their activities are facilitated by high-ranking officials and military personnel. Increasing levels of corruption and the erosion of state power are destabilizing the entire region.

91 Brothers of the Jihad – Warriors in Eastern Europe [VoD](#) [HD](#)

An important role on the Ukrainian side in the civil war in the east of the country is played by what are known as the territorial defense battalions. Most of these volunteer units are ultranationalist and Christian in character, but there are also Islamist battalions. The Brothers, as they call themselves, are members of IS and other jihadist groups trying to establish a broad-based militant network.

92 China – Rebellion from Within [VoD](#) [HD](#)

China's economic upswing has had a dramatic impact on the nation as a whole. The ruling Communist Party has uncompromisingly modernized the country and exposed the population to unregulated markets. State security agencies and Internet censorship aim to provide for peaceful and harmonious public life. But there are increasing numbers of people who dream of a better China and who are dedicated to achieving this despite the risks and the tough repressive measures.

93 Breaking the Silence – Courageous Women in Afghanistan [VoD](#) [HD](#)

The lives of most women in Afghanistan are ruled by a patriarchal order and the repression that stems from it. They still bear their fate in silence. Very few women dare to express any wish to change their country. There is still a long way to go, but a discourse on the status of women has at least begun.

94 Whistleblowers – Alone Against the System [VoD](#) [M](#) [HD](#)

For the justice system, they are people who betray secrets, while society often regards them as heroes. Whistleblowers expose corruption, data misuse or war crimes. They place their conscience above the personal consequences of their actions – which all too often result in a clash with a system in which former allies become bitter enemies.

95 Requiem for a City – The Venice Sellout [VoD](#) [HD](#)

20 million tourists visit Venice every year, a daily average of 60,000 – and the numbers are growing. That's more than the population of the city itself, which is around 58,000. For the locals, life in Venice is collapsing. The film is a requiem for a glorious but troubled city, and a lesson on how public assets are becoming the quarry of the few.

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96 Ghetto Children – Marseille’s Neglected Outskirts [VoD](#) [HD](#)

La Savine, a high-rise project on the outskirts of the French port city of Marseille, is for the most part home to socially marginalized people living in poverty. Ahmed Madi runs a youth soccer club there and makes every effort to ensure that his boys don't end up on the wrong tracks.

97 9/11 – Nothing Like It Was [VoD](#) [HD](#)

The US has been left deeply traumatized by the 9/11 terror attacks and the military conflicts that began in their aftermath. The responses of individual Americans to this could not be more different, and show a country split down the middle.

98 China’s Lonesome Sons – The Impact of the One-Child Policy [VoD](#) [HD](#)

China's one-child policy has had some unforeseen consequences. Because the male population outnumbers the female by 34 million, many young Chinese men feel they have no other choice but to travel to Laos or Vietnam to search for a partner. Traffickers also kidnap young women there and sell them as brides in China.

99 Shark-Finching in the Pacific – Palau’s Fight Against Illegal Fishing [VoD](#) [HD](#)

The island state of Palau in the western Pacific Ocean imposed a ban on shark fishing years ago, in recognition of how important the animal is to healthy marine environments. The marine police tries to stop illegal shark hunting in the waters around Palau, but it only has one boat at its disposal.

100 Hell on Earth – The Suffering of Female Refugees [VoD](#) [HD](#)

Refugees often report that their flight entailed terrible and deeply traumatic experiences. Women are the worst affected, with incidences of physical and sexual violence running like a thread through their accounts. But few witnesses are courageous enough to talk about their experiences in front of a camera.

101 Ana Rosa’s Campaign – The Right to Child Labor in Bolivia [VoD](#) [HD](#)

In Bolivia, it is legal for children aged 10 or older to work, even though that violates international conventions on child labor. 11-year-old Ana Rosa is not, however, contesting the law. On the contrary, she goes to school and she goes to work every day; she is also on the board of the children's trade union. In her view, children have to help themselves.

102 Millions For Nothing – What Has Happened to Aid for Kenya’s Largest Slum? [VoD](#) [HD](#)

For decades, donor countries have channeled billions of euros into development aid programs. But recipient nations have only felt the benefits in selected areas. The radio presenter Boy Dallas is known as 'the voice of Kibera', the largest slum in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. He wonders why, despite all the money and the involvement of public figures and more than 200 NGOs, Kibera is still in such a terrible state.

103 Housemaids in Singapore – Second-Class Migrants [VoD](#) [HD](#)

The housemaid market in Singapore is booming – young women employed by high-earning families, most of them from foreign countries themselves, for a very low wage. They often have no rights, because there are no labor laws protecting housemaids.

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104 Masoud's List – From IS Victim to Terrorist Hunter VoD M HD

For eight long months, Masoud Aqil languished in the torture chambers of the IS terrorist militia in Syria. The video journalist was the first Kurdish civilian to be set free as part of a prisoner exchange in September 2015. He fled via the Balkans to Germany, where he is now living at a secret location. Thanks to his contacts and meticulous online research, Masoud Aqil has tracked down his torturers and other supporters of IS. He has traced some of these individuals to refugee centers in Europe and reported them to the German authorities. The torture victim has now become a terrorist hunter.

105 Water is Life – A Soccer Player Builds Wells in Ethiopia VoD M HD

Neven Subotic is a soccer star with a busy life and hordes of fans, yet he still finds time to help others less fortunate. During the summer, when there are no matches to train for, he builds wells and sanitation facilities in northern Ethiopia, where many people do not have access to safe drinking water or clean toilets. The foundation he has set up focuses on clean water, sanitation and hygiene, in order to help children in the world's poorest regions have a better future. If conditions are hygienic, children are healthier and more likely to go to school.

106 The Deadly Row Over the Sacred Cow VoD HD

It's an ongoing conflict with the potential to tear India's multi-faith society apart: Because the Hindu faith views the cow as a sacred animal, Hindu fundamentalists are targeting Muslims and lower-caste Hindus who consume beef. The attacks are increasing in brutality and have already claimed several lives. The transport of beef is prohibited in many Indian states. Self-proclaimed cow vigilantes hunt down beef smugglers, real or alleged, and subject them to violent retribution. In the south of the country, secular and left-wing groups are mobilizing against the Hindu fundamentalists.