



Synopsis (long)

We start with one internally displaced woman – an experienced school teacher -- showing us her community of 50 people hiding in a forest and her own makeshift shelter from the rain, and explaining what has happened to them – a series attacks, destruction of property, killings and forced labor. We then see a rapid montage of graphic imagery of recent and past attacks by the military government that shows the affects of attacks by the Burmese army on the villages, including visual images of burnt villages, destruction of property and rice stores, villagers killed by the SPDC and images of people hiding belongings and food. The facts of the offensive, including how many people were displaced, are presented in a series of title-cards.

Villagers of all ages (and including women and men as well as children) walk us through a community hidden in the forest, and sit with the interviewer to relate their experiences and personal stories, and talk about their hopes and fears for themselves and their children. We see the pain of the situation on their faces. From them we will hear about the hardships that they continue to face, their hopes and fears for themselves and their children, and the impact that conflict has on their family and daily life, and why they believe the conflict is occurring.

In parallel to these interviews and conversations we see sequences of daily life living in fear and facing possible threats. We see the villagers staying in small groups near their fields, living in temporary homes, and avoiding their villages in the plains. From scenes of their cooking, the makeshift schools in hiding places and jungle medicine it is clear that they have very little food, there are no opportunities for education and limited healthcare, and no security. In parallel we show sequences and photographic evidence of what happens in the villages when the population flees – the destruction caused, the villagers who do not make it and are tortured, relocated or killed by the SPDC forces, and the landmines placed on the doorsteps of their homes. The woman we first interviewed recurs as a person talking about the situation and what has specifically happened in the past six months.

At the end, we are with the internally displaced people as they hide their food supplies, pack what they can carry on their backs, and prepare to set off again to escape a renewed offensive, and travel with them through the jungle as they walk day-and-night to get away from the attacks. The video ends with an explicit call expressed by people in the video and in an end title-card that specific actions are needed to support internally displaced people in Burma.

Sample synopsis (short)

In the Casamance region of Senegal we see a fertile, prosperous city and countryside contrasted to the plight of landmine victims. We follow the lives of four landmine victims of differing ages, genders and social classes, each of whom is trying to continue living and working. They explain the lack of medical assistance, and the socio-economic and psychological effects of landmines on their lives, and as we follow them in their daily lives we see these impacts. Their personal experiences are reinforced through expert interviews, culminating in an appeal, voiced by the victims, to the government and the international community to meet their obligations to provide assistance to victims of landmines, cease the use of landmines and to de-mine the region, as is stipulated under the Mine Ban Treaty to which Senegal is a signatory.

