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**White Family Defies Terrifying Odds to Keep Their Farm in Zimbabwe in POV's
"Mugabe and the White African," Premieres Tuesday, July 26, 2011 on PBS;
Streams on POV Website July 27 – Oct. 25**

On Land and in Court, the Campbells Incur a Dictator's Wrath; In a Tragic Epilogue,
Family Patriarch Mike Campbell, 79, Dies From the Beating Recounted in This Film

"A potent mix of suspense, pathos and indignation. . ." — Ronnie Scheib, *Variety*

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

National Air

Date: **Mugabe and the White African**, a film by Lucy Bailey, Andrew Thompson, David Pearson and Elizabeth Morgan Hemlock, has its national broadcast premiere on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 10 p.m. on the [POV \(Point of View\)](#) documentary series on PBS. (Check local listings.) The film will stream in its entirety from July 27 – Oct. 25 on the POV website, www.pbs.org/pov/mugabe. POV will host a live chat with Ben Freeth, son-in-law of film protagonist Mike Campbell, and co-directors Lucy Bailey and Andrew Thompson on Wednesday, July 27 at 12:30 p.m. EDT.

Now in its 24th year, POV is American television's longest-running independent documentary series and is the winner of a Special Emmy Award for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking, the International Documentary Association's Award for Best Continuing Series and NALIP's 2011 Award for Corporate Commitment to Diversity.

The film: **Mugabe and the White African**, much of which was filmed clandestinely, tells an alarming story from one of the world's most troubled nations. In Zimbabwe, de facto dictator Robert Mugabe has unleashed a "land reform" program aimed at driving whites from the country through violence and intimidation. One proud "white African," however, has challenged Mugabe with human rights abuses under international law. The courage Michael Campbell and his family display as they defend their farm — in court and on the ground — makes for a film as inspiring as it is harrowing.

On April 6, 2011, Mike Campbell, age 79, paid the full price of his courage: He died in Zimbabwe from the brutal beating he received in June 2008, as recounted in this film.

On July 21, 2011, *PBS NewsHour* aired a segment from **Mugabe and the White African**. In an interview with the *NewsHour's* Hari Sreenivasan, Ben Freeth, one of the farmers featured in the film and the son-in-law of Mike Campbell, talked about the international court case at the center of the film, the land redistribution policy in Zimbabwe and the continuing struggle of Zimbabweans under Mugabe's rule. **Mugabe and the White African** was selected as part of [The Economist Film Project](#), which presents documentary films in partnership between *The Economist* magazine and *PBS NewsHour*. View the clip at http://www.pbs.org/pov/mugabe/freeth_newshour.php

Embed a trailer, download press materials and learn more at www.pbs.org/pressroom.

POV Website: The POV [Mugabe and the White African](#) website includes a [photo gallery](#) of images taken during the filming of the movie; a [timeline of Zimbabwe's history and the progression of land redistribution under Mugabe's rule](#); [bios of the key players](#) in the film; updates; [an excerpt from Peter Godwin's *The Fear*](#) (Little, Brown and Co., 2010) and a map of the Campbell's Mt. Carmel farm and the region. Viewers can also access a video interview with Lucy Bailey.

Outreach: POV works with public television stations and national and community groups across the country to foster community dialogue around the issues presented in our films. For a list of upcoming screening events for **Mugabe and the White African**, go to: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/outreach>.

Educators may record the film and show **Mugabe and the White African** in their classrooms for one year following the premiere broadcast. Additionally, selected video clips from the film are available for streaming along with the free lesson plan by Cari Ladd, M.Ed. All viewers can download and print out the free discussion guide by Faith Rogow, PhD, for background information, discussion questions and tips for screening the documentary at their next film club or community meeting.

Filmmakers'
Statement:

"We have been in many life-and-death situations with our contributors and have cried and laughed with them as we shared some of the most intimate moments of their lives," say co-directors Lucy Bailey and Andrew Thompson. **Mugabe and the White African** is a story that we feel the world should hear.

"Much has been reported about the eradication of white-owned farms in Zimbabwe and the deterioration and subsequent collapse of the country. We have all seen news images of beaten-up farmers and seen the desperation in people's eyes as they live in hunger, hopelessness and fear. We wanted to make a film about a big issue such as this, but in a very intimate and personal way.

"We completed our film in the spring of 2009. Mike Campbell passed away at his temporary home in Harare on April 6, 2011, having never recovered from the injuries during his kidnap and torture inflicted by a gang trying to throw him off his farm on June 29, 2008. Mike was an amazing and brave man. We will miss him."

Filmmakers:

Lucy Bailey (Co-director)

With a background in anthropology and a passion for Africa, Lucy Bailey has over ten years' experience as a television director, much of it shooting on the African continent. Her credits include "Lorenzo's Oil — Miracle or Myth" (BBC, 2004) and "Saving Planet Earth — Saving Turtles" (BBC, 2007). Bailey has also worked for the charity Comic Relief, making promotional films that were nominated for the One World Media Popular Features Award in 2008. She formed Explore Films with Andrew Thompson, her co-director and life partner, in 2008. They live in Great Britain.

Andrew Thompson (Co-director/Cinematographer)

Andrew Thompson is a BAFTA- and RTS-nominated cameraman who has more than 14 years' experience filming all over the world for Channel 4 (C4), BBC, National Geographic and Discovery. While he works mainly as a director of photography, he has increasingly

turned his attention to directing. His cinematography credits include “Sex Traffic” (C4, 2008), “Inside the Kingdom” (BBC, 2007), “Brian Keenan in Lebanon” (BBC, 2007), “Ross Kemp in Afghanistan” (SKY, 2007) and “Geldof in Africa” (BBC, Discovery 2004). Thompson is the co-founder, with Lucy Bailey, of Explore Films. He lives with her in Great Britain.

In the News: Voice of America, July 25, 2011: [“Zimbabwe Parliament Probes Assault of Legislators by Alleged Mugabe Militants”](#) by Irwin Chifera and Ntungamili Nkomo. “Zimbabwe's Parliament opened an investigation Monday into the violent intrusion into the House on Saturday by alleged militants of President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party who disrupted a hearing on enabling legislation for a human rights commission.”

Voice of America, July 14, 2011: [“Zimbabwe's Former Ruling ZANU-PF Reiterates Demand for 2011 Elections,”](#) by Blessing Zulu, Ntungamili Nkomo & Tatenda Gumbo. “Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's former ruling ZANU-PF party's politburo has rejected an elections road map proposed by negotiators for the parties in Harare's unity government, saying time lines must be shortened so that new elections can be held this year — which most observers do not believe is at all feasible. . . .”

Christian Science Monitor, July 10, 2011: [Zimbabwe Police arrest, then release, top leaders](#), by Scott Baldauf. “Zimbabwe police arrested and then released top leaders of a political party in the country's fragile ruling coalition government for violating provisions of Zimbabwe’s strict Public Order and Security Act. . . .”

Credits: Co-directors: Lucy Bailey, Andrew Thompson
Producers: David Pearson, Elizabeth Morgan Hemlock
Executive Producers: Steve Milne, Pauline Burt
Director of Photography: Andrew Thompson
Sound Recordists: Sebastian Dunn, James Snowden
Editor: Tim Lovell
Original music: Jonny Pilcher
Running Time: 86:46

POV Series Credits:

Executive Producer: Simon Kilmurry
Co-Executive Producer: Cynthia López
Director of Production and Programming: Chris White
Series Producer: Yance Ford

Awards and Festivals:

- Best Feature Documentary, British Independent Film Awards, 2009
- Grand Jury Prize, Silverdocs, 2009
- Special Jury Award, Hamptons International Film Festival, 2009
- Sterling Award for a World Feature, Silverdocs, 2009
- Prix Italia SIGNIS Award, 2010
- Camera Justitia Award, Movies That Matter Festival, 2010
- Nominated, BAFTA Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director, Producer, 2010
- Shortlisted, Best Feature Documentary, Academy Awards, 2010
- Best Cinema Documentary, Grierson Awards, UK, 2010
- Best Documentary Award, Royal Television Society, UK, 2011

POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 24th season on PBS, the award-winning POV series is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today’s

best independent documentary filmmakers. Airing June through September with primetime specials during the year, POV has brought more than 300 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *POV's Borders*. Since 1988, POV 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. Visit www.pbs.org/pov.

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