

# Final Solution

Dir : Rakesh Sharma      India      2004    149 min

**Awards : Wolfgang Staudte award and Special Jury Award (Netpac), Berlinale 2004**

**Silver Dhow, Zanzibar International film festival (2004)**

**Humanitarian award for Outstanding Documentary, HongKong filmfest (2004)**

**Festivals : Hot Docs (Canada), Fribourg International filmfest, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe, Sao Paulo, Bogota, Big MiniDV (USA), Durban, Istanbul, 3 continents filmfest (South Africa), Singapore, World Social Forum (Mumbai), Amnesty (USA), Vancouver, Voces Contra el Silencio (Mexico), Vikalp (Mumbai), One world filmfest (Prague), Flanders (Belgium) etc.**

## **Blurbs from press reviews and write-ups:**

A stirring film – **Screen**

A searing documentary – **Newsline**

Cutting edge documentary – **Mid-Day**

Final Solution is a chilling account – **BusinessWorld**

The film documents the changing face of Gujarat – **Indian Express**

Final Solution, without being clever, is a structural ace – **Cinema in India**

A searing account of religious hatred and social polarisation - **Frontline**

Its subdued style and quiet narrative make the issue explode - **The Hindu**

A passionate, meticulously researched expose of the politics of hate – **Anand Patwardhan**

It brings out the complexity through its myriad moments and mini-portraits – **Asian Photography**

It painstakingly unpicks the issues around various flashpoints – **FIPRESCI** (at Sydney )

A complex, well-researched and timely documentary – **HotDocs** (Canada)

A powerful and articulate plea for tolerance – **Durban International filmfest**

A brilliant documentary which imposes itself like a work of reference in political documentary cinema – **Fribourg International filmfest**

(The award is given) for its analysis of propaganda mechanisms for political purposes, and its measured voice to seek a final solution to the conflict.' – **Netpac Jury** (Berlinale)

An epic documentary focussing on a culture of hatred and indifference. The directness, clarity and accuracy of the film enables the viewer to both reflect on the universality of the subject matter and relate this to his or her own human attitudes. – **Berlinale Jury**

**Final Solution is a study of the politics of hate.** Set in Gujarat during the period Feb/March 2002 - July 2003, the film graphically documents the changing face of right-wing politics in India through a study of genocidal violence against Moslems. It specifically examines political tendencies reminiscent of the Nazi Germany of early/mid-1930s. Final Solution is **anti-hate/ violence as “those who forget history are condemned to relive it”**.

Part 1 : **Pride and Genocide** deals with the pogrom and its immediate aftermath. It probes the patterns of pre-planned violence by right-wing Hindu cadres, which many claim was state-sponsored. It reconstructs through eyewitness accounts the attack on *Gulbarg and Patiya* (Ahmedabad) and acts of barbaric violence against Moslem women at *Eral* and *Delol/Kalol* (Panchmahals) even as Chief Minister Modi traverses the state on his *Gaurav Yatra*.

Part 2 : **The Hate Mandate** documents the poll campaign during the Assembly elections in Gujarat in late 2002, especially the exploitation of the Godhra incident by the right-wing propaganda machinery. It studies the continuing impact of the carnage on Hindus and Moslems – ghettoisation in cities and villages, segregation in schools and the call for economic boycott of Moslems etc.

# Censors say 'no' to Final Solution

India bans religious riot movie – **BBC**

Why have a Censor Board? – **Mid-day**

Dump the censors – **Hindustan Times**

Gagging creative freedom? – **Deccan Herald**

Censor Board blocks Gujarat Documentary...should be scrapped – **Times of India**

Rakesh's film doesn't breach peace. It breaches skin. It makes you feel. Introspect. - **Tehelka**

A film that touches our lives the most has been watched across the globe but it is highly unlikely that Indian audiences will ever get a glimpse of this film – **NDTV**

## Petition against ban on Final Solution

We, the undersigned, urge the Government of India to immediately revoke the ban imposed by the Censor Board...The right to freedom of expression and the right to information are central to any healthy and vibrant democracy. **Final Solution is itself a strong plea against the politics of intolerance and hate and we are perturbed to find it become a victim of political intolerance...**We are shocked to note that the Indian Censors have offered the following reasons for the ban: *" It attacks on the basic concept of our Republic i.e. National Integrity and Unity. Certain dialogues involve defamation of individuals or body of individuals. Entire picturisation is highly provocative and may trigger off unrest and communal violence. State security is jeopardized and public order is endangered if this film is shown."*

We are appalled to note that the Censor Board preview panel has several members affiliated with the right-wing political party who do not hesitate to use their official position to suppress any film critical of their politics...We are gravely concerned about the strong-arm tactics being used by right-wing cadres to thwart public screenings of the film even in film festivals like Films for Freedom at Bangalore."

Signed by several thousand people including Prof. Bipan Chandra, Admiral L Ramdas, Mira Nair, Shabana Azmi, Nandita Das, Vijay Tendulkar, Shyam Benegal, Javed Akhtar, Aparna Sen, Govind Nihalani, Karan Johar, Ashutosh Gowariker, Farhan Akhtar, Rahul Bose, Vishal Bhardwaj, Arundhati Nag, Sanjna Kapoor, MS Sathyu, Mallika Sarabhai, Nafisa Ali, Dr Asghar Ali Engineer, Prof Ghanshyam Shah, Ram Puniyani, Yogendra Yadav, Sunil Khilnani, Harsh Kapoor, Shabnam Hashmi and Teesta Setalvad

To sign the petition, log on to <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/FilmBan/petition.html>

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