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PRESSTV DOCUMENTARIES

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**PRESSTV
DOCUMENTARIES**

2017

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The Battleground 1*52 (HD) US-2017

By international standards, U.S. voter turnout is exceedingly low, and among the lowest in the developed world. Low voter turnout is typically attributed to political disengagement. In the 2012 U.S. presidential election, 57.5 percent of eligible Americans voted.

Characterized by alarmingly divisive partisan forces and with the national news media reaching obsessive levels of coverage far earlier than usual, the 2016 U.S. presidential election is arguably unlike any other in American history. As a result, supporters from both the Democratic and Republican parties have been active on the frontlines, relentlessly advocating for their respective candidates.

The documentary engages supporters of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in the state of Pennsylvania and shares their unique stories and perspectives on the election process and outcomes. Pennsylvania has voted Democratic in every presidential election since 1992. Unlike other swing states of Ohio, Florida, North Carolina and Michigan, the state had not been considered up for grabs. But Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes helped determine the surprise outcome in 2016.

Interwoven with first-hand accounts and interviews with political experts, we learn about the key issues and events that have been presented throughout the election. With the aid of these experts, the documentary will also provide an analytical perspective on U.S. democratic processes and practices, as well as racial and economic concerns that affect the political experiences of average Americans and shape the outcomes of U.S. electoral processes.



Meeting ISIL
1 x 120 (HD)
Syria / Iraq – 2014

Everyone who is not us is the enemy and should be branded as infidel. This seems to be the prevailing ideology of the extreme Takfiri terrorists known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Their aim is said to be the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate. Shias, Christians, Sunnis, Yazidies, and whomsoever who dares to question them or raise his voice of dissent are persecuted under their highly distorted version of Islamic Sharia. Gruesome beheadings, crucifixions and mass executions are openly carried out under their iconic black flag which is more like a modern day equivalent of a Jolly Roger. At times, it seems like their victims are whoever who is unlucky enough to be in their path during their killing sprees. And yet they know how to manipulate social media and have succeeded in brainwashing some to join them in their “fight for justice”. To learn who these people are, what they are fighting for, and who funds them, PRESS TV goes deep into their camps and brings you face to face interviews and exclusive footage. Many of those who were initially infatuated by the group’s promise of justice seem to be horrified and utterly disillusioned today.



America's Surveillance State
6 x 25 (HD)
US – 2014

We live in the United States of Surveillance--with cameras increasingly positioned on street corners and with much more invisible spying online and on the phone. Anyone who is paying attention knows that privacy could be out the window. All of this is not happening by accident -well funded powerful agencies and companies are engaged in the business of keeping tabs on what we do, what we say, and what we think.

To many in the world, today, the face of America also has A BIG NOSE for sniffing and sifting mountains of data-phone calls, emails and texts. And with many mouths silenced by paranoia to keep what they decide is secret, secret. America has become a Surveillance-Industrial State where everyone's business has become its business, and where one huge US intelligence Agency has been given the sanction and unlimited amounts of money to spy on the whole world.

Mass Surveillance is the focus of this new 6 part investigative documentary series examining who is watching whom and why.



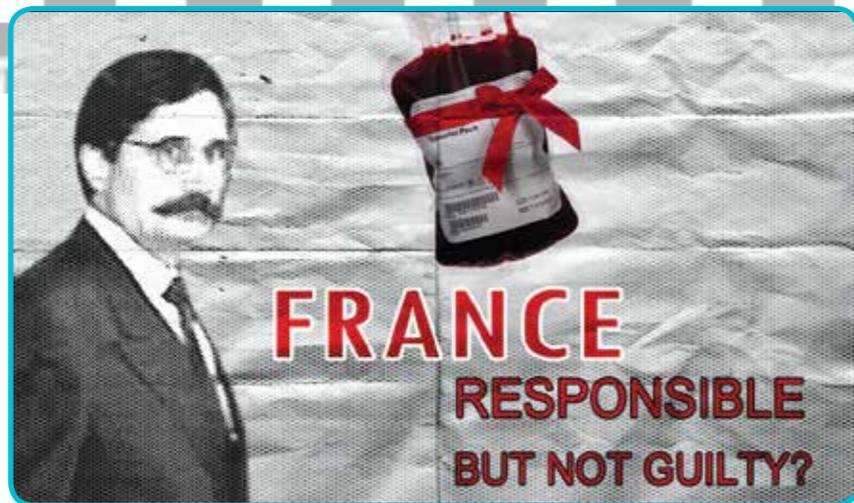
Blades on the Storyline
 1 X 52 (HD)
 Iran – 2015

Mass media – as a public belief constructor - play an important role in both informing people about what goes on across the globe and shaping their mindsets and belief systems. In the meanwhile, mainstream media have been utilized by different systems to influence people's attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors throughout the history. The Nazi and Communist propaganda exercises epitomize this media role. After the rise of ISIL as a terrorist group in the Middle East, its activities have received widespread attention in the mainstream media. Moreover, this terrorist group's use of media has become an important focus of concern particularly after it released videos and images of beheadings and mass killings. An exclusive, thought-provoking documentary, Press TV's "Blades on the Storyline" deeply analyzes ISIL's media war which is particularly aimed at fulfilling its callous objective, i.e. to creep into the minds of households and political circles throughout the world. Leading figures in documentary making and media analysis are solicited to tap into ISIL's agenda of media strategies and to see how this Takfiri, terrorist group's propaganda machine can be compared with its Nazi or Communist counterparts. In the end, the documentary comes to the conclusion that, although a relatively small and intricate industry, today's mass media continues to allow this barbaric group to get its message out, hence permitting its propaganda machine to flourish.



Iran is Great
 1 X 52 (HD)
 Iran – 2015

Cristian, Audrey and their two children Emilia and Lucas passed through Iran on their way to India, and as a result of an incident, were forced to stay for a bit longer than they had planned. They decided to travel and explore. And to their amazement realized that Iran's manufactured negative image abroad does not correspond at all with the reality they encountered. As things turned out this family of four from Europe enjoyed Iran and the hospitality of its people so much that they decided introduce the true Iran to whoever they could. And that's why they started a campaign called Iran is Great.



France: Responsible but not Guilty?
 1 X 52 (HD)
 France / Iran – 2015

This documentary investigates the tainted blood scandal that started in the 80's from France but quickly extended internationally to countries such as: Iran, Iraq, Argentina, Tunisia, and Portugal as 9.800 blood packages were exported. During the mid 80s HIV tainted blood was transfused to French patients and HIV tainted blood products were given to Hemophilia patients both in France and abroad. As a result the scandal has claimed the lives of an unknown number of people so far but has never been closed since the responsible people were never declared guilty. But how did such a great scandal develop and why? Through the personal stories of victims or their families this documentary will go through the events that took place between 81 and 86.



The Power behind the Throne
 1x50 (HD)
 The UK – 2016

Investigating into today's power structure in the UK and the role played by the British monarchy, this eye-opening documentary reveals the grossly disproportionate and undemocratic wealth and power of Britain's Royal Family. The programme educates the viewers about the sheer wealth of Britain's unelected monarchy and trails through the various assets and sources of income to which a random family, born into a historic mesh of multiracial kings and queens, unfairly believe they are entitled. The UK with its dark and scattered history of political struggles has become the playground of monarchic power and influence. The documentary exposes all the main instruments of wealth of the British monarchy and provides clear commentary as to why Britain may be the most contradictory democracy in the world.



Mina 53°C
1 X 52 (HD)
Iran – 2016

Hajj is an annual pilgrimage to Mecca for millions of Muslims from all over the world. It is one of the world's largest gatherings on Earth. For Muslims, the Hajj is a central pillar of the Islamic faith meant to cleanse the faithful of sin and bring them closer to God. On the third day of Hajj each year, Muslims celebrate Eid al Adha, one of Islam's holiest festivals. But in last year's Hajj on the day of Eid the joy and celebration of Muslims turned into grief and sorrow as the deadliest accident in Hajj history occurred when a human stampede caused the deaths of thousands of pilgrims who were suffocated or crushed during the annual Hajj pilgrimage in Mina, as pilgrims were en route to Jamarat to conduct a stoning ritual. Saudi authorities have said the Mina crush and stampede occurred when two waves of pilgrims converged on a narrow road, suffocating or trampling to death those caught in the disaster. Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars on crowd control and safety measures but to no avail. Why was the crowd ushered in the wrong direction? Why weren't they rescued in time? Why wasn't water distributed in the scorching heat? And many more questions regarding Saudi Arabia's negligence have remained unanswered almost a year on. This documentary looks into the details of the tragic incident with interviews with officials and victims.



Race for Justice
1 X 52 (HD)
US – 2016

According to the statistics, more than 900 people were fatally shot by the US police in 2015. At least 100 of those deaths were unarmed African-Americans. US police are three times more likely to kill a black person than a white person. Though African-Americans make up just one-tenth of the US population, they account for 40% of the prison population. Moreover, black men between the ages of 18 to 19 are nine times more likely to be incarcerated than white men; black women are five times more likely than white women. What compounds this situation is that the United States makes up 5% of the world's prison population. The total incarcerated population is roughly 2.4 million people. In "Race for Justice," Press TV presents a detailed depiction and analysis of this chaotic situation by conducting informative interviews with the family members of US police violence victims, social activists, and Maria Haberfeld, a professor of Police Science, in the Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. Different cases of the US police violence, brutality, and shooting are dealt with and probed into throughout the documentary.



America's Backyard: The Dominican Republic
1 X 52 (HD)
The Dominican Republic – 2016

The United States has always had a close relationship with the Dominican Republic. During the 19th century, it treated the Caribbean island as “subsidiary” and never hesitated to invade the sovereign nation if its political situation didn’t suit their needs. Meanwhile, it provided ample backing to any Dominican regime that was willing to push the US’ agenda, even if this meant supporting the cruelest dictator in the history of Latin America.

In this revealing and analytic program, we will visit the Dominican Republic’s Free Trade Zones, where sweatshop workers will tell us about the slave-like working conditions they had to endure while manufacturing garments for US brands and, many times, even working for US clothes manufacturing companies based at the zone.

Besides the Free Trade Zones, we will witness how the mining exploitation of Canada’s Barrick Gold, the world’s largest gold mining company, is responsible for the extreme devastation taking place in Pueblo Viejo located in the Dominican Republic, approximately 100 kilometers northwest of the capital city of Santo Domingo.



The Secrets Behind Auvers-sur-Oise
1 X 52 (HD)
France – 2016

The terrorist group of “Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization,” also called “MEK” or “MKO,” which is featured among some countries’ lists of terrorist groups is being protected in a small town only 30 kilometers from Paris, in Auvers-sur-Oise; this has resulted in neglect of public interest and freedom of speech. During the years, the organization has been responsible for a lot of terrorist acts against innocent Iranian citizens both in Iran and abroad. Press TV presents its investigative documentary about the MEK headquarters in France at Auvers-sur-Oise in Ile-de France, near Paris. The life that surrounds this strange place, the movements in and out of the compound as well as the links between the organization and the neighborhood are all depicted in this informative documentary. The so-called Iranian resistance exiled in France has tried its best to look like a pacific organization in the neighborhood where they have been since the 1980s but in the recent years neighbors and human rights organizations have started asking questions of what this place is all about. On the 26th of January 2014, the French Association called “Peace” organized a demonstration against cults in France. They denounce in Auvers-sur-Oise the presence of the MEK terrorist group and the support they receive from the mayor of the town.



In the Name of Faith
1 x 52 (HD)
Macedonia – 2016

More than 1000 Balkan militants are fighting in Takfiri terrorist groups; they depart without saying goodbye to their families, many of them will never come back home.

In the early 1990s, during the great conflicts following the dissolution of Yugoslavia, Saudi Arabia started to enter the Balkans from the front door. The whole operation was conducted under the auspices of high committee of Saudi Arabia. Many humanitarian organizations were opened to finance radical groups, many Islamic communities became dependent on Saudi Arabia's money, and many so-called Mujahideen arrived in the Balkans especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina helped by the humanitarian organizations financed by Saudi Arabia. Today some of these Saudi humanitarian organizations are closed, yet the fact still remains that they played a big role in the radicalization of the whole region, and that most of today's Takfiri terrorist militants had trainings at centers financed by Saudi Arabia. They leave beaming with hope for a better life, yet thanks to that hope a big business is thriving, a business that deals with human souls.

In Press TV's exclusive documentary "In the Name of Faith," a group of political, military, and religious analysts along with experts in security and terrorism put under scrutiny the underlying reasons for the advent of terrorist extremist groups in the Balkans, who are then sent to fight in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc, and analyze a wide range of the processes at play in forming the whole fabric of Takfiri terrorist groups' recruitment.



My Ballot
1 X 52 (HD)
US – 2016

Every four years Americans elect a president. And every four years, campaign-finance experts predict the coming of the most expensive election in history. The 2016 presidential campaign is no exception. It is reckoned that political candidates, parties, and outside groups will spend more than double the cost of the 2012 campaign. But how do the intertwined elements of money, politics and the media play a role in the most expensive elections in the world? And why is this money not spent in a way to benefit the public? This documentary delves into the mechanics and workings of the US presidential elections and tries to disclose how money is spent for TV advertisement, campaigning, and lobbying.



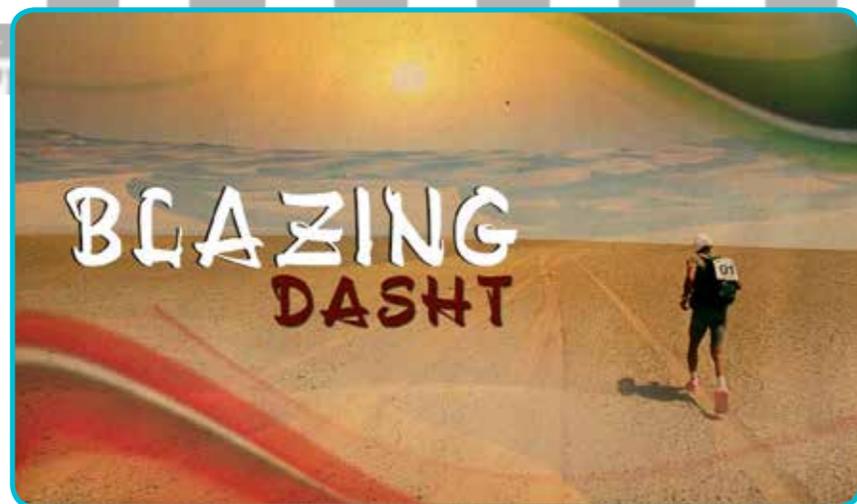
British Supermarket Waste
1x25 (HD)
The UK – 2015

Supermarkets in Britain make huge profits, underpay farmers, exploit their own staff and cause a lot of harm to consumers and retailers.

The oligopolistic UK supermarket sector is increasingly dominated by a few giant firms. Four big supermarkets of TESCO, ASDA, Sainsbury's and Morrisons decide on the livelihood of people, what they eat and how they consume.

The Global South and developing world provide cheap produce for British supermarket shelves. Supermarkets can benefit from poor economic conditions because they can buy cheaply and sell at low margins.

Amid rife hunger and poverty in England, supermarkets produce mountains of waste of perfectly good food that could feed millions who barely have access to adequate or healthy food.



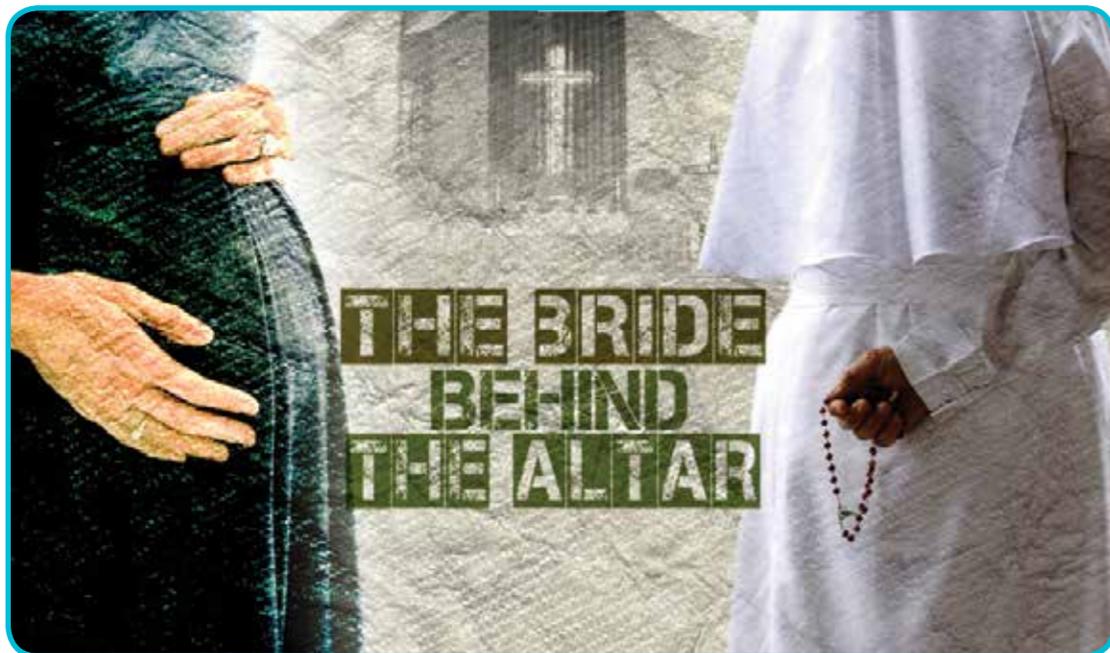
Blazing Dasht
1 x 24 (HD)
Iran – 2016

On one end of the climate continuum of Iran is a desert which has been recognized as one of the world's driest and hottest places; Dasht-e Loot. It is a large salt desert in Kerman and Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Iran, and is the world's 25th largest desert. Decorated with Yardangs, this desert is a popular tourist attraction now hosting an extreme ultra-marathon. Paolo Bargini, the organizer of this event, planned this race to start in an ancient caravansary on the west of the Loot desert for the contestants to run 250 kilometers for six days in the first Iranian Silk Road ultra-marathon. The 35 marathon runners have come from many different countries, some of them for the first time. "This will not be out last trip to Iran," they all say. In this exclusive documentary by Press TV, the filming crew follows the runners to every step of this international event through the gruesome nature of Dasht-e Loot and you will get to learn about the fascinating life stories of some of the athletes in this race.



Shingal's Children: Banished by Daesh
1 X 38 (HD)
Iraq – 2016

The Takfiri terrorist group, Daesh or ISIL has been attacking and devastating towns and villages in Iraq and Syria. Daesh terrorists control some parts of Syria and Iraq and they are engaged in crimes against humanity in the areas under their control. ISIL Takfiris have terrorized and killed people of all communities, including Shias, Sunnis, Kurds, and Christians. With the liberation of Shingal eventually a humanitarian corridor for the hundreds of civilians who had been stranded in the Mount Sinjar area was opened. With their evacuation terrifying stories of massacre and abduction emerged. In times of conflict perhaps children are the most venerable and the most affected. The filmmakers of this documentary have gone among the displaced children of Shingal to ask them to make a documentary film of their life. They teach the children the basics of documentary filmmaking, hand over the camera and just step back to see life through the lens of Shingal's Children. Through intimate interviews the children depict the horrific crimes that Daesh terrorists are committing. These traumatized children speak of men, women and children killed in cold blood. And they relate the cases of Izadi girls and young women taken away to be sold.



The Bride Behind the Altar

1 X 52(HD)
Italy – 2016

The issue of mandatory celibacy imposed by the Catholic Church is a highly sensitive matter for the Vatican. In fact this issue is considered taboo. Paradoxically, it is easier to talk about child abuse and finances, topics considered “less dangerous”. The secret love stories between women and priests threatens much more hierarchies, because they include a number of issues that the Church has no intention to deal with: mandatory celibacy, common-law marriages and most importantly the children that might result from these relationships.

For now the Vatican has chosen to remain silent, but things might be about to change. A group of women who have been or are currently in illicit relationships with priests have written a letter to the Pope demanding the priest’s right to marriage. And this letter that twenty-six women sent to Pope Francis is not the first. In 2010 Pope Benedict XVI received a letter from 10 women who were in stable relationships with priests for many years and they threatened to come out, creating an earthquake in the Catholic Church. Yet both Popes have chosen to turn a blind eye to the matter. This documentary will disclose an image of the Church that seems to be in stark contrast with what the new Pope wants to present. It tells the story of stolen love; stories that begin by a wink and turn into a nightmare, often with tragic farewells. In intimate and touching interviews the women speak about their experience of being in a relationship with a priest. Also a number of priests who have decided to leave the Church and get married to the woman they love disclose the obstacles and challenges they faced. This documentary also reveals the true reason for mandatory celibacy in the Church through interviews with critics and experts.



Ta'zieh: The Iranian Opera
1 X 52(HD)
Iran – 2016

About 50 years had passed since the death of Prophet Muhammad and the Muslim Empire was sliding into corruption under a tyrant from the Ummayyad dynasty, Yazid. Yazid ruled with an iron fist, and demanded Husayn ibn Ali, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad who was admired and respected by society at large, pay him allegiance to lend credibility to his own rule. Husayn who witnessed the basic rights and dignity of his people being violated, and good values from his society being drained took a stand against Yazid's illegitimate rule. He chose to stand against Yazid and was forced to leave his home along with his family and companions. It was on this journey that Husayn, his family and companions were forced to stop by Yazid's army, on the hot plains of a land called Karbala. Ultimately after three days of no water in the scorching heat, Husayn stood and fell valiantly whilst standing for his principles and defending those around him being oppressed. What makes Husayn's stand extraordinary is that he chose to stand against a mammoth army despite having only 72 companions with him. Husayn ibn Ali made the ultimate sacrifice for social justice in the face of corruption and tyranny. He gave everything he had, including his life, to keep Islam alive.

Well over a millennia has past from the Battle of Karbala, but this epic battle between good and evil continues to inspire individuals and communities across the globe. Today millions of people from all over the world pay homage to Husayn ibn Ali for his stand against injustice and annually mourn the tragic Battle of Karbala. Inspired by this historical and religious event, a unique form of theatre has evolved in Iran over the centuries. With its roots in Persian culture and Islamic values, this form of theatrical performance called Ta'zieh or Shabih Khani is performed for the commemoration of the martyrdom of Imam Husayn in the Battle of Karbala. In this ritual of mourning the actors and spectators all gather to remember Imam Husayn and his values, and it is still practiced throughout Iran's cities and towns. With its many unique characteristics Ta'zieh or Shabih Khani is seen as the only form of serious drama to have developed in the world of Islam. It is also considered as a traditional Iranian Opera.



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