



Sheila Nevins
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Original Programming

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Executive Producer for "America Undercover" and the head of documentaries for HBO, the premium cable channel in the US with a reach of 23 million households. "America Undercover" is a major documentary strand on American Television featuring the work of award winning filmmakers from around the world. Competition for these slots is intense. On average, I commission 12 original documentary's per year. Films commissioned by the strand have gone on to win 13 Emmys, 6 Academy Awards and 13 Peabodys.

Kimla Zabihyan first came to my attention in 1996 when I became aware of her film "The Yardies" which was a film set in one of the toughest ghetto communities in Kingston, Jamaica. I became aware of this film through seeing it featured at several festivals in the US. When Kimia first contacted me she was still based in London and I invited her to come to us with an American based story that we could consider for "America Undercover."

Soon thereafter, Kimia contacted us with a story that was both unsettling and compelling. It was the story of an African American family in Virginia that was demanding an investigation into the mysterious death of their 20 year old son, who was found hung to death a few hours after OJ Simpson's acquittal. The result was Kimia's film "Death by Hanging: A Family's Pledge of Allegiance."

Kimia worked extremely hard over a number of years, persevering under considerable pressure to deliver an intimately observed film for HBO. Ultimately, "Death by Hanging" was well received by audiences and critics alike. Kimia's talent and dedication qualify her as a promising filmmaker who I can heartily and highly recommend.

Best regards,

Sheila Nevins